

WEDNESDAY

30p

EVERY WEEKDAY

Wanted-secretaries

Crème de la Crème with nine pages of secretarial jobs inside **inter//face**

From Russia with brio

See Moscow's music prodigies and save 50% on tickets **ARTS** page 40

World Cup

Romario-Brazil lose their 'Gazza' too **SPORT** page 52

WEDNESDAY

30p

EVERY WEEKDAY

MI5 agent barred from Diana show



Shayler: order forbids him to speak about MI5

By Raymond Snoddy and Carol Midgley

THE Attorney-General has stepped into the dispute over tonight's documentary about Diana, Princess of Wales, by warning broadcasters that they may not include contributions from former MI5 officer David Shayler.

The ITV programme, *Diana - The Secrets Behind The Crash*, will allege that the Princess was murdered and that her former lover James Hewitt was told by members of the Royal Family that it would be dangerous for him to continue seeing her.

Mr Shayler had been due to take part in an hour's live studio discussion after the programme, "speaking from abroad" to outline the role of the security services in the protection of dignitaries.

But the Treasury Solicitor's Office, acting for the Attorney-General, wrote to broadcasters on Monday reminding them of a September 1997 injunction against Mr Shayler that prevents him disclosing any information gained while working for the security services.

The warning letter says that "on the face of it, it seems very likely that Mr Shayler will be asked in the course of the programme to disclose information obtained by him in the course of, or by virtue of, his employment in a position as a member of the security service".

For good measure the letter adds: "I am instructed that in fact the Security Service of which Mr Shayler was a member is not responsible for the protection of dignitaries."

The documentary will feature a long interview with Mr Hewitt in which he alleges that the Princess's private secretary Patrick Jephson had "suggested it wouldn't be very clever for me to continue and that they couldn't be certain of my security."

He says that members of the Royal Family - whom he describes as "not immediate members", but does not name - told him the relationship was "not supported" and that it may be dangerous to continue. He also claims that he was "warned off" in anonymous phone calls. "The telephone calls were anonymous but left me in no doubt that they knew what the situation was... they said it was not conducive to my health to continue the relationship."

The clearest warning came, he says, when he was told he would suffer the same fate as Barry Mannakee, the Princess's personal bodyguard, who was killed in a motor cycle accident in 1985.

ITV said Mr Hewitt had not been paid for the interview.

Granada, which is responsible for the programme, made by an independent Fulcrum Productions, was taking legal advice on the letter from the Treasury Solicitor's Office. It said that Mr Shayler did not appear in the documentary. Carlton told the Treasury Solicitor's Office that the former MI5 officer was not now taking part in the discussion programme either.

Mr Shayler resigned from MI5 last year after becoming disillusioned with its "incompetence". He made a series of allegations in a Sunday newspaper about intelligence gathering from the late Sixties until the early Eighties when, he said, senior executives were obsessed with the "threat from the Left". He spoke about a wide-ranging bugging campaign and said that Peter Mandelson's phone had been tapped for three years when he was a young political activist.

Mr Shayler then fled abroad and is now living overseas. He has been unable to publish a book about his career in Britain because of the Official Secrets Act.

Hewitt tells of Royal Family 'health warnings' over affair

last year after becoming disillusioned with its "incompetence". He made a series of allegations in a Sunday newspaper about intelligence gathering from the late Sixties until the early Eighties when, he said, senior executives were obsessed with the "threat from the Left". He spoke about a wide-ranging bugging campaign and said that Peter Mandelson's phone had been tapped for three years when he was a young political activist.

Mr Shayler then fled abroad and is now living overseas. He has been unable to publish a book about his career in Britain because of the Official Secrets Act.

Letters, page 19

Dorrell to take up mantle of Tory Left

By Nicholas Wood

STEPHEN DORRELL, the former minister who quit the Shadow Cabinet on Monday, last night put himself at the forefront of the Tory Left's challenge to William Hague over a European single currency.

In a move reminiscent of Michael Heseltine's campaign against Margaret Thatcher's leadership, Mr Dorrell also disclosed that he intended to tour the country to press for a new form of Conservatism. "It's speeches, it's writing, it's debating opportunities," he said of his plans to embark on the so-called "rubber chicken" circuit of constituency party dinners.

In a direct rebuff to Mr Hague, Mr Dorrell said that the Tories should keep open their options on the euro at the next election, giving themselves the freedom to join later if it proved a success.

Mr Dorrell, who performed dismally in last year's Tory leadership contest, also made plain that, at 46, he has not abandoned hope of one day leading his party. "Reports of my retirement have been somewhat exaggerated," he said in an interview with *The Times*.

Mr Dorrell's move, which allies him directly with former Cabinet heavyweights Kenneth Clarke and Mr Heseltine, will intensify the pressure on the Eurosceptic Mr Hague, whose poll ratings tumbled last month and who is less popular among Conservatives than Tony Blair. Mr Dorrell, who stepped down as Shadow Education and Employment Secretary at the reshuffle, named Mr Clarke, the most outspoken and senior critic of Mr Hague's European policy, as his closest political soulmate. He said he had left the Shadow Cabinet because he wanted to expand and develop his own vision of Conservatism in the 21st century.

The party had suffered a "seismic shock" in the general election and he wanted to use the freedom of the backbenches to speak out across policy spectrum.

In a sideswipe at the Eurosceptics, now the dominant force in the Shadow Cabinet and the parliamentary Tory party, the former Health Secretary said that hostility to Europe was not the way to win back the 4.5 million people who deserted the Tories at the last election.

Mr Dorrell, who tried to tack towards the sceptics in the run-up to the last election, also denied that he was shifting his ground yet again. "I continue, as I always have, to argue the case for Britain being a committed member of the European Union."

The former Cabinet minister said that the Tories had to face up to the fact that most of Europe was making a serious attempt to set up a single currency.

Continued on page 2, col 4

Simon Jenkins, page 18



Thompson: "I thought I had no choice. I wouldn't get any money any other way"

Violinist smuggled £1.2m of cocaine

By Joanna Bale

A FORMER semi-finalist in the BBC Young Musician of the Year contest told a court yesterday of her fall from grace that reduced her to smuggling nearly £500,000 of cocaine from Brazil.

Hannah Thompson, 25, violinist and daughter of a Roman Catholic deacon, became a "mule" for a drugs gang after dropping out of university and becoming an alcoholic and drug addict.

She was tracked by customs officers as she brought the drugs through Heathrow airport and was arrested on her way home with 3.18 kg (7.01 lb) of cocaine in a holiday. After agreeing to co-operate - she has pleaded guilty to drug smuggling - she led the officers to three alleged members of a drugs gang who recruited her as a courier.

Miss Thompson, the daughter of the Rev Nicholas Thompson, a retired army officer who works for the Catholic Church in Dorset, told Isleworth Crown Court in west London that she needed hundreds of pounds a week to pay for her addictions. She agreed to smuggle cocaine into Britain from São Paulo to pay off her debts, including a student loan of about £2,000.

The court was told that she had been taking drugs since she was 18; her problems worsened when she dropped out of King's College London after a year.

She told the jury of six men and six women that she still had dreams of making it as a musician and enrolled on a music, technology and recording course at Kingston College in 1996. However, her use of LSD, crack cocaine, amphetamines, Ecstasy and cocaine continued and she became increasingly depressed.

Giving evidence in a faltering whisper, with her head bowed, Miss Thompson agreed that her lifestyle had become chaotic and she was suffering from acute depression, anorexia and alcoholism.

She said that at the time of her arrest she was a "complete wreck". She said: "I was suffering from depression, anorexia and severe drink and drugs problems... I was trying to distance myself from reality most of the time. Drinking was my main problem. I drank too much and I was drunk most of the time."

The court was told how her boyfriend, a Rastafarian in his late 40s with whom she lived in a council block in Southall, West London, was serving a six-month prison sentence for cannabis dealing at the time. She was struggling to make ends meet by teaching the violin and busking around London. She said she would busk in Kensington and King's Cross every day, earning between £40 and £110, but she spent much of the money on drugs.

She had sought psychiatric help, but that had not been effective. During a night out at an illegal drinking club in Cambridge Circus, central London, she met a Nigerian friend, who had supplied her with cocaine regularly.

She told the court: "He sold me coke and he also would help out with paying for my taxi home. He knew my boyfriend was in prison. I think he knew that I didn't have any money. He asked me if I would go to South America to bring back some coke... When my equipment started breaking down, I thought I had no choice. I wouldn't get any money any other way."

Miss Thompson was given cash to buy a ticket to São Paulo via Zurich. She was given the address of an hotel on the outskirts of the city where she was met by a Nigerian man. After a week spent drinking and smoking crack cocaine, she returned to Britain.

She was arrested as she called at a friend's house in Acton, west London.

The trial continues.

We're not blowing our own trumpet.

We're blowing the whistle.

0845 3000 233 DIRECTLINE

TV & RADIO 50-51

WEATHER 26

CROSSWORDS 26-52

LETTERS 19

OBITUARIES 21

SIMON JENKINS 18

ARTS 40-42

CHESS & BRIDGE 44

COURT & SOCIAL 20

SPORT 44-50, 52

HOME 39

ITALY 23-25

Union anguish as Brown refuses to open his purse

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

GORDON BROWN was accused by the unions yesterday of imposing a "totally unnecessary straitjacket" on public spending as he promised to maintain strict discipline right through to the next general election.

The Chancellor gave his strongest warning yet of the need for public sector pay restraint by insisting that his rule that spending must be funded only by tax revenues and not by borrowing would be enforced "whatever the pressures or difficulties".

With the year-long Cabinet review of Whitehall spending about to end, Mr Brown confirmed that he intends to register a budget surplus in each of the next three years, an approach he said was necessary to end Britain's vulnerability to "boom and bust" and ensure long-term stability.

Analysts pointed out that with tax revenues buoyant, Mr Brown would still be able to increase spending and stay within his disciplines. The severe test would come if the economy faltered, revenues fell and he was unable to meet public pay demands without borrowing.

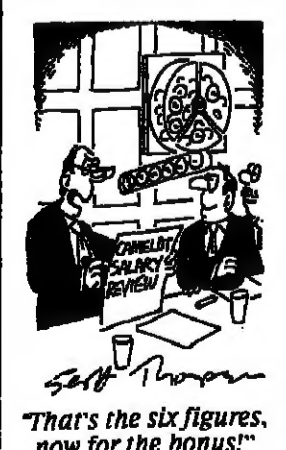
However, the Chancellor's firm line caused deep alarm among union leaders, who saw him yesterday, and will have confirmed ministers' fears that they face an anguished few weeks as they seek to justify their spending demands. Mr Brown is trying to trim £20 billion from their bids for spending above the Treasury's target for the next three years. Some ministers are deeply worried about the rigour of Mr Brown's approach as the £332 billion spending cake is divided.

David Blunkett is demanding at least £10 billion over the next three years to fund school building repairs, lower class sizes, nursery places and teachers' pay. Universities are also seeking substantial funds towards the £500 million start-up costs for the new student loans system.

Frank Dobson, is asking for about £9.5 billion more for the health service budget, which now stands at £37 billion. He has to meet Tony Blair's pledge of cutting hospital waiting lists by 150,000 by next April and a further 100,000 by the end of the Parliament. The Health Secretary is said to be pressing for money to open more beds, so that some can be kept empty for emergencies, and for a generous award to health service staff. Nurses and doctors had their pay awards staged last year.

Continued on page 2, col 1

Leading article, page 19



Lottery profits

Tim Holley, the chief executive of Camelot, will receive a one-off payment of more than £1 million if its licence to run the National Lottery is renewed in 2001. The news came as Camelot unveiled bumper pay rises for all its directors and record profits of £80.9 million in spite of a slump in the sale of scratchcards. Lottery sales rose 17 per cent to £5.5 billion in the year ending in March.

UN seeks quake-aid helicopters

From Christopher Thomas in Kabul, Afghanistan

A TRICKLE of aid is starting to reach the remotest villages shattered by Saturday's earthquake in northeast Afghanistan. Helicopters dropped tents, blankets and water containers yesterday, a small beginning to an awesome task of helping hundreds of thousands of people who cannot be reached by road.

A lack of helicopters and fuel is preventing a concerted effort to rescue thousands of injured, many of whom will die of their injuries.

The United Nations yesterday appealed for more helicopters. Plans are being drawn up to fly fuel into Faizabad, the main town in the area. Yesterday rain threatened to increase the misery of the survivors who are sleeping outside.

Quake wilderness, page 15

Matron takes charge of a right carry-on over health



Double act: Ann Widdecombe and Alan Duncan

A new Tory destroyer, HMS Ann Widdecombe, was launched yesterday at 14.33 hours. She blew her whistle and ploughed straight into the HMS Frank Dobson, a middle-aged corvette of considerable firepower. Both sustained superficial damage but neither sank.

Arms akimbo and glowering at the Secretary of State, the formidable hulk of the Tories' new chief health spokesman presents a fearsome sight to the Government benches. Beside her, a slim and agitated new sidekick, Alan Duncan, completed this Hattie Jacques & Charles Hawtrey of a duo.

And what a carry-on! From

the look in Widdecombe's eye, Frank Dobson must have been grateful for the interposition of the Dispatch Box, for she looked ready to lunge onto the table and come at him from on top with her big black handbag. Spokesmen normally stay seated, confident that a nod in the Chair's direction will get them called, but Widdecombe leapt up and down like an eager backbencher.

An opening salvo came from Alan Duncan, whom the Chair called Ian. What a start! On your first day the Speaker forgets your name. But Duncan was not deterred. Mr Duncan declaims as from a balcony. He must be daunting over the cornflakes. Then



MATTHEW PARRIS
POLITICAL SKETCH

Miss Widdecombe lunged at the Dispatch Box and started slugging it out with Mr Dobson — also on the subject of waiting lists. She was not subtle. He was not nimble. Neither was brief. The result was much banging about, punctuated by the rattle of statistics and the thud of hyperbole. Nobody won.

Frank Dobson resembles a teddy bear with attitude; Ann Widdecombe illustrates beautifully the use of "bosom" as a collective noun. The two of them (neither, as Dobson

reminded us, at the fashionable end of their parties) swung at each other like the survivors of a long and acrimonious marriage, familiar with the argument, hating each other's guts, and staying together for the sake of the health service.

What was unexpected was how Widdecombe's appointment has rattled a Government side already raw-nerved about hospital waiting lists. Dobson appeared ill-at-ease, unable to look her in the eye. Labour backbenchers were

well-briefed with prepared attacks upon her of a personal kind. Two women — Audrey Wise (Preston) and Phyllis Starkey (Milton Keynes SW) — ignored the subject of health and concentrated instead on Widdecombe's character. Mrs Wise suggested that Widdecombe believed there was no such thing as a "carer": Mrs Starkey accused her of having wanted to shackle pregnant women inmates when she was Prisons Minister.

"Are you a carer? Answer!" Labour shouted, before Widdecombe even spoke. Dennis Skinner and other Labour MPs (quick to accuse the Tories of sexism) repeatedly shouted "Doris! Doris!" — referring to the 'Doris Karioff' tag the Mirror invented.

When Miss Widdecombe complained to the chair about inaccurate personal attacks, Skinner yelled "Doris! Can't take it!" New Labour, New Man? It seems not. But then Widdecombe is hardly New Woman. On yesterday's showing they are well matched.

Later, MPs debated proportional representation. The Home Secretary promised a referendum. If 60 per cent of the electorate vote for PR, shouldn't the new system be 60 per cent PR? If it is 100 per cent PR then the millions who voted for the status quo will be completely unrepresented in the change. Why should referendums be first-past-the-post?

Short accuses Red Cross of pointless appeals

CLARE SHORT will today accuse the Red Cross, the world's most prominent aid agency, of launching pointless fundraising appeals which cause unnecessary alarm.

In a speech to a London conference, the International Development Secretary will liken Red Cross appeals to "999 crews rattling boxes to raise funds when they don't need it to run the ambulances".

Ms Short penned her diatribe against the Red Cross after the agency rounded on her for suggesting last week that humanitarian appeals by many aid agencies made people "flinch and turn away".

The Red Cross was so incensed that it said that Ms Short's remarks were "a little bit like blaming 999 crews because we have a lot of road accidents".

The agency has supported appeals for Sudan and for the former Yugoslavia in recent years. The biggest campaign the Red Cross supported was the appeal in 1994 to help refugees who survived the genocide in Rwanda.

Ms Short's comments, to be made at an international journalism conference at which famine agencies will be present, will take her feud with them to a new low. She is so aware of the impact of her proposed remarks that she has submitted them to her officials for final approval, but said she liked "putting a little

Nicholas Watt on a growing feud between minister and agency over emotive methods of fundraising

bit of bait out and getting the discussion moving".

In an interview with *The Times*, Ms Short said that aid agencies have become so obsessed with financial appeals that they have driven each other into "competitive fundraising". She believes that agencies often respond to crises by launching unnecessary appeals and engender a sense of helplessness among the public about the Third World by using emotive pictures of famine victims.

Ms Short said: "Why is there such a sense of despondency, despair and compassion fatigue? One of the reasons is that all the adverts are constant failures and dreadful pictures... People do not lack compassion but they feel disappointed and it is all hopeless and there is nothing they can do."

"I do not want to fight with the [agencies]. They do good work but they are driven into competitive fundraising. It

has this destructive consequence that really we have got to deal with. It is undermining the political understanding and it is holding back on what we could achieve in the next 20 years which could be very considerable indeed."

Ms Short pointed out that the latest famine in Sudan was caused by the country's civil war and yet emotive appeals had led people to think it was another "act of nature". She said: "In the case of Sudan there is no need for money. The whole problem has been access. Let's keep all the public pressure on the Government of Sudan and the southern factions so we get the access. The minute you get into public opinion all compassion flows into thinking it is an act of nature and then you muddle what the cause which is the fighting."

Ms Short said that the last 50 years had witnessed the most successful onslaught on world famine in the last 500 years. This success needed to be built on by pointing out the positive roles played by Governments and aid agencies, rather than constantly trotting out negative images.

Ms Short's attack will revive memories of last August when she infuriated the people of Montserrat by suggesting that their demands for assistance after the volcano were so unreasonable "they will be demanding golden elephants next".



Mr Dorrell yesterday: "The challenge for Tories is to ensure that the European building did not catch fire"

Dorrell challenges Hague policy

Continued from page 1

currency. "It is powerfully in Britain's interests that that currency is a success. We need to think about the implications for Britain of a successful single currency. I do not agree with the proposition which says that we should be deciding this issue as a matter of principle, because I think it's an issue that should be determined by an assessment of where our interests lie. I do not believe we shall know enough at the time of the next election to be able to conclude that our interest lies in joining or not joining."

Mr Dorrell's stance, amounting to a revival of John Major's much abused

"wait and see" approach, is at odds with Mr Hague's outright rejection of the euro for the next ten years. Mr Dorrell also repudiated Mr Hague's vivid warning that for Britain to scrap the pound would be like entering a burning building with all the exits closed. The challenge for the Conservatives was to ensure that the European building did not catch fire.

In another warning shot for the Tory leader, Mr Dorrell allied himself with Conservative Mainstream, chaired by Mr Heseline, the pro-European umbrella organisation for groups of European Tory MPs. He suggested that Euroscepticism was an electoral dead-end. "Under our

electoral system you do not get offered the chance of forming a government unless you get the votes of 14 million people and we are some four and a half million short of that."

Mr Dorrell also said he intended to be radical in other areas such as health, education and the constitution. One challenge was to find ways of attracting more money into schools and hospitals at a time when people were reluctant to pay more in taxation. That implied assigning a bigger role for the private sector in such areas.

Simon Jenkins, page 18

NEWS IN BRIEF

Family of 16 in £1.7m benefit scam

An extended family of 16 has been convicted of a social security fraud in which they pocketed £1.7 million. The family, who have joint British and Dutch nationality, were arrested in a joint international operation between fraud investigators in Britain and Holland.

Although most lived in Holland they had been claiming benefits in London for six years. The 16 were convicted in Holland, with seven being jailed for up to 22 months. One was given a suspended sentence and the others community service. Frank Field, the Welfare Reform Minister, said that the Government would apply for a court order to recover the money.

Rail link

John Prescott, the Deputy Prime Minister, will face demands from MPs for assurances that funding for the £5.4 billion Channel Tunnel rail link will not be diverted from other transport projects. Mr Prescott will announce that additional taxpayers' money is to be set aside for the project, although reports of £700 million extra subsidy were dismissed as "far too heavy". City, page 21

Uranium missing

Highly enriched uranium, enough to make three atomic bombs, has been reported missing from the Dounreay nuclear plant, according to a new report. The loss of 375lb of uranium, known as "material unaccounted for", was uncovered by the Atomic Energy Authority during a study of 16,000 consignments of nuclear waste tipped into the plant's 21st shaft over the past 18 years.

Dentist charged

Neville Bainbridge, a dentist, and Prabhakar Shridhar Gadgil, an anaesthetist, have been charged with manslaughter after Bradley Miller, 14, failed to recover from an anaesthetic administered in Mr Bainbridge's surgery in Barnsley, South Yorkshire. The boy's parents were waiting in an adjoining room. The accused will appear before Barnsley magistrates on July 31.

Fire death arrest

Detectives have arrested a youth in connection with the death of Lauren Carhart, 12, who was murdered and set on fire on wasteland in north Manchester on Sunday, less than a quarter of a mile from the home she shared with her mother Jill and younger brother. The youth, who lived near the dead girl and knew her, is being questioned about the events leading up to Lauren's death.

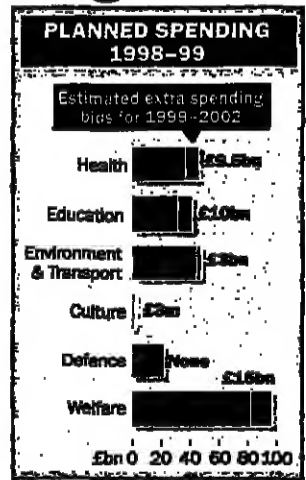
Union anguish over cash curbs

Continued from page 1

and ancillary workers were also squeezed. John Prescott is requesting at least £3 billion extra to fund transport programmes such as the Channel Tunnel Rail Link and investment on London Underground. He has also asked Mr Brown for money to help councils to set up schemes to reduce congestion.

These will allow authorities to charge motorists in town centres and to tax companies for employee parking spaces. Although this is expected to become self-financing in the longer term, the Treasury is considering providing start-up costs in exchange for a percentage of the proceeds.

All three ministers were supported yesterday by a union delegation led by John Monks, the TUC general secretary, which urged Mr Brown to increase spending on health, education and transport. There are certain to be increases in those areas,



but Mr Brown's insistence on prudence means that the squeeze on the pay of millions is likely to continue.

Rodney Bickerstaffe, general secretary of the public services union Unison, said: "Public sector workers and those who depend on their services will feel angry and demoralised that their years of austerity are to be extended

unnecessarily and unfairly. "Surplus cash should be used to strengthen our public services. It is no use having a surplus if we still have long hospital waiting lists, large class sizes and teachers, nurses and doctors voting with their feet by leaving their service."

Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the National Union of Teachers, said: "This will come as a disappointment to teachers and parents who recognise the shortages in our schools, particularly the need to recruit more teachers."

Mr Monks said that the unions were not asking the Chancellor to do anything irresponsible. "We put our case for increased public expenditure in line with rises in national prosperity. We do think there is scope for extra spending on health, education and public transport."

Francis Maude, the Shadow Chancellor, said that the Tories would support the Chancellor if he was serious about financial prudence, but

questioned whether he could see it through. The cost of living was increasing, there had been five interest rate rises, and taxes were up by the equivalent of five pence in the pound.

Mr Maude said: "That's going to lead to very intense pay pressure, so let's see whether he's got the mettle to stick through it. We will support him if he goes down the path of real financial prudence — that's what we've always believed in."

The Liberal Democrats said that Mr Brown's policy was not prudence with purpose, but "fiscal flagellation". The Treasury spokesman Ed Davey said: "Given Labour's current problems in delivering on their promises on public services, it is astonishing that Gordon Brown is taking such a restrictive approach — putting the piling up of surplus cash before improvements in health and education."

Leading article, page 19

Provisional IRA founder swaps bomb for ballot box

BY MARTIN FLETCHER
CHIEF IRELAND
CORRESPONDENT

A 78-YEAR-OLD man widely regarded as a founder of the Provisional IRA is to stand for election to Northern Ireland's new assembly.

Joe Cahill, the grand old man of the Irish republican movement, has never stood for election before, but at noon today he will hand in his nomination papers in Ian Paisley's North Antrim constituency. Having spent much of his life trying to destroy Northern Ireland, he now wants a seat in the body that will run it.

Mr Cahill was one of six IRA men sentenced to hang in 1942 for the murder of a policeman, but his sentence was commuted to imprisonment. By the beginning of the 1970s he was the IRA's Belfast commander. After the intro-



Cahill: standing in Ian Paisley's constituency

duction of internment in 1971 he staged an audacious press conference to show it had not succeeded. He became head of the IRA's army council in 1972, helped to negotiate the first Libyan arms shipments to the IRA, and in 1973 was arrested aboard the *Claudia*, a cargo ship carrying five tonnes of

Libyan arms and explosives to Ireland.

In recent years Mr Cahill has become an invaluable supporter of Gerry Adams's peace strategy. At last month's special Sinn Féin conference in Dublin, he helped to swing the republican movement behind the Good Friday peace agreement. "I believe those who sacrificed their lives would think this is a great opportunity to bring about the united Ireland they died for," he said.

Mr Cahill appears to stand only a slim chance of election. Sinn Féin won just 6 per cent of the North Antrim vote in last year's general election. But James McCarry, a local councillor and fellow Sinn Féin candidate, acknowledged the potent symbolism of his colleague's candidacy. "It demonstrates the times we are in," he said. "They are changing times."

The zoom compact that lets you widen your horizons.

MINOLTA



← A normal zoom compact gives you this much. →
← A 75w wide angle lens gives you this much more. →

With the Riva Zoom 75w, you get the whole picture, not just a part of it.

Because unlike most compacts, its wide angle power zoom takes you right in for 'the big close up' at 75mm and right out to an ultra-wide 28mm.

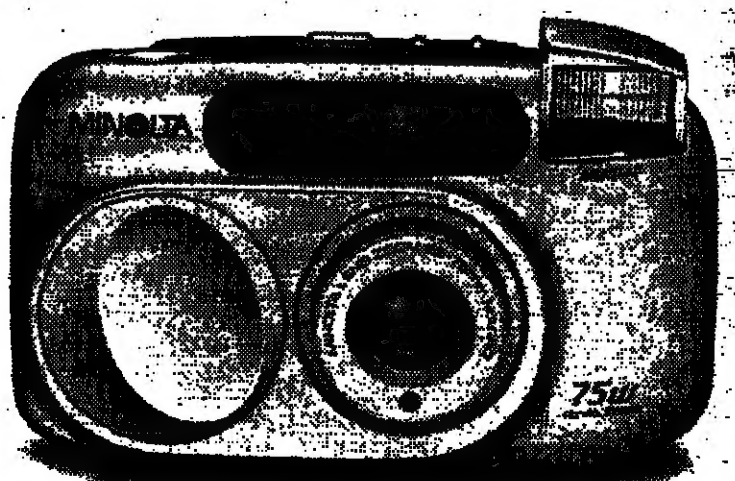
And not only does it go to exceptional widths to give you what you want. It also goes to exceptional lengths.

Features include special modes for Macro,

Night Portrait and Landscape; a flash system that's 'soft' on close ups, so your subject's not drained of colour; a Continuous Drive, enabling you to fire off shots in quick succession, even a retractable flash and lens cover.

Now you can have the whole wide world in your hand. All for just £159.99.

The Riva Zoom 75w. The compact with the wide angle zoom lens.



Only from the mind of Minolta.

Divorc
hitme
Teneri

Vince Jones
in jail
after assault
conviction

Fetishist
pairs of c

TWO former...
pairs of...
Liverpool...
old vest...
Sleeves...
home...
Cavendish...
tricked...
over their...
for a career...
Two...
among the...
students...
surrey and...
taking up the...

Divorcee hired hitmen to kill Tenerife lover

A BRITISH woman who hired two nightclub bouncers to murder her lover and business partner on Tenerife was sentenced yesterday to 27 years in a Spanish prison. The bouncers, both Britons, received the same sentence.

Jacqui Ambler, 33, Gary Holmes, 31, from Littlehampton, West Sussex, and Stanley Stewart, 32, from Tullibody, Clackmannan, were found guilty of murdering Michael O'Hara, 39, in 1995 at the bar the couple ran in the Los Cristianos resort.

Ambler, who had left her 11-year old son and her former husband behind in Doncaster, South Yorkshire, to live with Mr O'Hara, paid Holmes and Stewart £40,000 before the murder and promised them a further £40,000 once the job was done, prosecutors said.

The two contract killers battered Mr O'Hara, from Wakefield, West Yorkshire, over the head with a metal barrel and strangled him with a bar towel during a prolonged and violent attack inside his bar, Little Stevies. They had previously tried to knock him unconscious with a karate chop and had tried to stab him through the heart.

Ambler, who was waiting outside, helped to lure Mr O'Hara out from the bar's lavatories after he managed to

Briton sentenced to 27 years in Spanish prison, report Giles Tremlett and Paul Wilkinson

fight off the attackers when they first attempted to kill him, prosecutors said. Ambler had told Mr O'Hara the coast was clear, but Holmes and Stewart jumped on him as soon as he stepped out of his hiding place, they said.

Police photographs had shown the bar spattered with blood. "It was a very violent murder," said one of the lawyers involved in the case.

The two killers were arrested a few days after the murder in the bar district of Las Veronicas in Playa de las Americas in the sprawling tourist zone in south Tenerife.

Holmes and Stewart, had initially told police that Ambler had paid them to murder Mr O'Hara. Prosecutors said that she had even hidden a knife in the bar for them. Later they changed their story, with Holmes claiming he had

killed Mr O'Hara on his own in self-defence during a fight over drugs. Stewart then began to protest his innocence.

Ambler had claimed she had nothing to do with the killing. She told the court she had left the bar to put out the rubbish and found Mr O'Hara's battered corpse when she returned.

Ambler's lawyers said: "We will almost certainly now present an appeal to Spain's Supreme Court. The prosecution never gave any motive for her to kill him." The said Ambler had expected to be freed after spending two and a half years awaiting trial in a Tenerife prison. She had even asked them to start preparing to sue the Spanish state for wrongful imprisonment.

The appeal process will take another year and a half.

The guilty verdict came after the trial had been suspended twice in the past two months because two prosecution witnesses had failed to attend court.

Ambler's father, John, heard the news in a call from a Foreign Office official. At his home in Rossington, South Yorkshire, he said: "I just can't believe it, it hasn't sunk in. We are absolutely devastated. I don't know how they have reached this verdict."

"The last time we saw her back in May she was buoyant, she believed she would be acquitted. We were expecting to hear today that she had been cleared. The whole trial was a sham, witnesses didn't turn up and crucial evidence was never heard. The legal system there is so unpredictable."

"The two men who carried out the killing retracted their statements in court. They said they had lied when they said she had offered them £54,000 to kill O'Hara. My daughter doesn't have 54 pence, let alone £54,000. We had to pay her air fare back the last time."



The hitmen: Gary Holmes, left, and Stanley Stewart



Jacqui Ambler, who was sentenced to 27 years for the murder of her lover

Army chaplain fights for career after acquittal

By HELEN JOHNSTONE

AN ARMY chaplain was left trying to salvage his career last night after a court martial cleared him of sexually assaulting a soldier's wife.

Captain Richard Landall broke down in tears as he marched stiffly from the courtroom in Aldershot, unsure whether he would now face a disciplinary hearing. The 41-year-old chaplain, who has four children, said outside the court that he still did not know why the 24-year-old wife of a soldier serving in Bosnia had accused him of molesting her.

During the ten-day trial he was portrayed as a flirt who wolf-whistled at women and made suggestive remarks in his attempts to be "one of the lads". Close colleagues suggested last night that Captain Landall's career was almost certainly over.

During the trial, the chaplain, who separated from his wife in April 1997, admitted in a letter to a woman who accused him of harassment that, if he did not cut out his behaviour, it would eventually get him into trouble.

The Army refused last night to speculate on the possibility of an internal disciplinary hearing. A spokesman said Captain Landall would be returning to work as a chaplain at the administrative unit at Upavon, Wiltshire, where he had been transferred pending the outcome of the case. Captain Landall did not

discuss his future in a brief statement after his acquittal. In a barely audible voice, he thanked the court before taking his cap and belt and marching out alongside his twin brother, David.

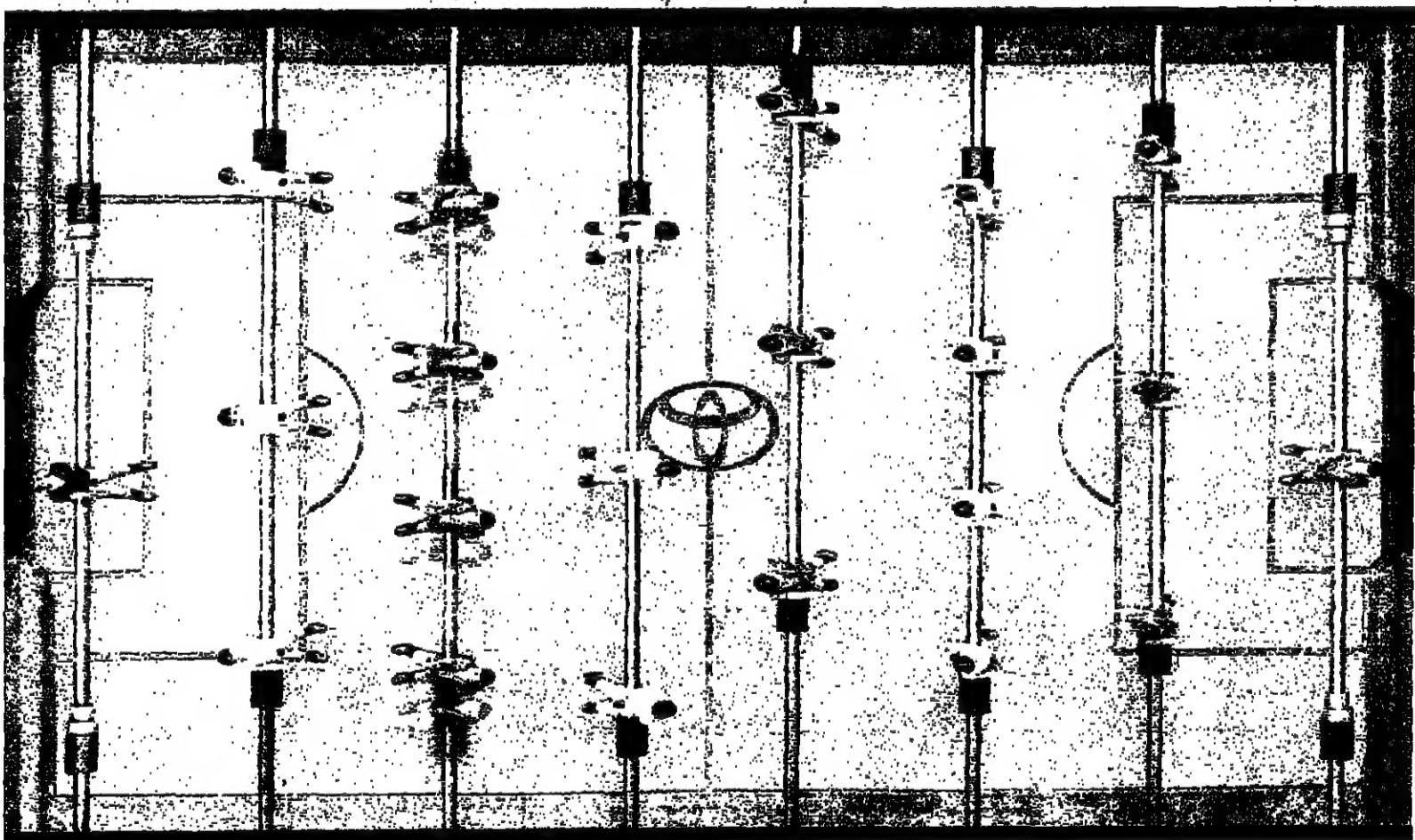
He said afterwards: "I thank God that justice has been done. I have prayed throughout this case that the truth would come out. Just why these accusations were made, I will never fully know. This has been an immensely difficult time not only for myself but also for my children, my family and friends."

The five-man tribunal was warned by Judge Advocate Michael Hunter to consider the motives of his accuser — referred to as Mrs X — as to whether she told "wicked lies" and then considered selling her story for £15,000 to a tabloid newspaper.



Landall: may still face disciplinary hearing

SPOT THE BALL AND TURN FOOTBALL FANTASY INTO THE REAL THING.



Name Address Postcode
 What car do you drive at the moment? Make Model Year If it's a company car, can you choose a Toyota? Yes/No. When do you intend to replace your car? Month Year
 Age 15-29 ☐ 30-39 ☐ 40-49 ☐ 50-59 ☐ 60+ ☐ We may make our mailing list available to carefully selected partners whose products or services may interest you. If you would prefer not to receive such mailings, please tick this box. ☐
 tyww

WIN A TRIP TO THE WORLD CUP FINAL, AND A REAL TOYOTA TO GET YOU THERE.



We have four pairs of World Cup Final tickets to be won - and each pair comes with either a limited edition Celica SR, RAV4 Freesport or one of two Corolla SRs.

Plus there are 10 runners-up prizes of a sporting holiday worth up to £5,000. And every entrant gets a Thomas Cook holiday discount voucher worth up to £200.

To enter simply mark a single cross where you believe the centre of the football would be. Fill in the entry form and take it along to your local Toyota dealership (where you can also pick up your free voucher). For your nearest Toyota dealer please call 0800 777 555. No more football fantasy - just the real thing - when you win with our spot the ball.

SATURDAY 6th & SUNDAY 7th JUNE

*Of course, winners don't have to drive all the way to France, maybe just the airport! World Cup Final tickets include return flights, hotel accommodation the night before/after the trip and full hospitality.
 **Offer covers 2 years or 34,000 miles (two services) on all new cars and excludes Northern Ireland, EPO, special and diplomatic sales and commercial vehicles.
 Only one entry per customer. No purchase necessary. For terms and conditions visit your dealer. Dealerships in Northern Ireland and the Channel Islands will run the promotion on Friday 5th and Saturday 6th June 1998.



THE CAR IN FRONT IS A TOYOTA

Vinnie Jones faces jail after assault conviction

By PETER FOSTER

THE footballer Vinnie Jones was facing jail last night after being convicted of assaulting a neighbour after a row over a stile and a footpath gate.

The 33-year-old Queens Park Rangers assistant manager and coach was found guilty of causing actual bodily harm to Timothy Gear, 27, and criminal damage to his mobile home.

During the two-day trial magistrates in St Albans heard how Jones went to Mr Gear's caravan late one night last November, smashed a kitchen window and then bit Mr Gear on the scalp, kicked him in the ribs and punched him in the face.

The violence followed a dispute over a stile which Jones, a Wales international and former Wimbledon player, had installed near his home in Redbourn, Hertfordshire, to keep local children from riding motorcycles past his house, endangering his two young children.

The case was adjourned for pre-sentencing reports leaving Jones with a three-week wait before he finds out if he is to receive a jail sentence or community service. The maximum sentence is five years in jail. QPR declined to comment last night on what effect his conviction would have on his future at the club.

Kashoggi's £3m cheques bounced, says Ritz casino

By PHILIP DELVES BROUGHTON

CHEQUES written by Adnan Kashoggi, once one of the richest men in the world, "bounced" when he lost more than £3 million at the Ritz Casino in London in two weeks, the High Court was told yesterday.

Twelve years on, the 63-year-old uncle of Dodi Fayed has still not paid and the casino has taken him to court to recover the debt, plus interest estimated at £5 million.

Between March 27 and April 10, 1986, Mr Kashoggi wrote 16 cheques to the casino. This came at the end of four months in which he spent more than £10 million at the roulette wheel, the court was told. The cheques were refused.



Kashoggi: spent £10m at the roulette wheel

by Mr Kashoggi's Swiss bank because of insufficient funds in the arms dealer's account, said Nicholas Merriman, QC, for the Ritz.

Between 1986 and 1990, Mr Kashoggi excused himself from paying, saying that he was mired in congressional hearings in America over the "Irangate" scandal, as well as criminal proceedings involving him and Imelda Marcos. "I can understand how that might have occupied him," said Mr Justice Roughton, who is presiding over the case.

In 1990, the manager of the casino asked Mr Kashoggi if he would turn his mind to the bounced cheques. Mr Merriman said that no payment materialised and the following year the casino resorted to the legal action which yesterday found its way to the High Court.

When Mr Kashoggi began his £10 million spree at the casino, he found himself in profit at the end of some evenings. Mr Kashoggi soon found, Mr Justice Roughton said, that "fortune's smiles had turned to frowns".

Mr Kashoggi's defence will claim that he had an arrangement with the casino's management that effectively allowed him to continue gambling illegally on credit. The hearing continues today.

Fetishists collected 10,000 pairs of other men's socks

By RUSSELL JENKINS

TWO homosexual lovers amassed a collection of 10,000 pairs of used socks to satisfy a bizarre sexual foot fetish. Liverpool Crown Court was told yesterday.

Steven Bain, 27, a nursing home carer, and Steven Gawthrop, 31, a student, both of Southport, Merseyside, tricked men into handing over their socks by claiming that they were raising money for a cancer charity.

Two uniformed policemen and a traffic warden were among the many - mostly students - who fell for their story and were photographed holding up their socks. Other

young men were enticed back to Gawthrop's flat to put their bare feet on Bain's face in exchange for £5.

The young "victims" were given increasing amounts of money, up to £80, to engage in perverted activities, including beating the men with belts.

The court heard that the pair told their "victims" that charities received £300 for every 300 pairs they collected. When police raided the flat last October, they discovered an 18-inch deep carpet of socks. About 4,000 were tagged with the donor's names and neatly wrapped in sandwich bags. One officer

said: "They were all over the furniture, hanging from lampshades and even in the microwave, frying pan and cooker. It was like there had been an explosion in a sock factory."

Their activities came to light after a firm of film processors developed a roll of obscene photographs. Both men pleaded guilty to conspiring to commit acts of gross indecency. Gawthrop also admitted incitement to commit unlawful wounding on Bain. Bain admitted a similar offence on Gawthrop. They were each jailed for 18 months.

Camelot directors cash in as lottery profits rise

WHAT THEY EARN

TIM HOLLEY, 58, chief executive

Overall package: £636,000, up from £590,000 last year — a rise of almost 8 per cent.

Basic salary rose 8 per cent from £262,000 to £284,000. Performance-related bonus down from £127,000 to £126,000 and his benefits in kind from £25,000 to £24,000. But long-term bonus scheme rose from £175,000 to £202,000.

PETER MURPHY, 41, finance director

Overall package: £429,000, up from £361,000 (19 per cent).

Basic salary rose 18 per cent from £148,000 to £175,000; bonus up from £74,000 to £79,000; long-term bonus payout up from £96,000 to £127,000 and benefits up from £43,000 to £48,000.

DAVID CLARK, 58, operations director

Overall package: £355,000, up from £347,000 (2 per cent).

Basic salary rose from £148,000 to £155,000 (6 per cent); performance-related bonus slumped from £74,000 to £69,000 and his benefits from £31,000 to £20,000. But long-term incentive payment went up from £96,000 to £111,000.

DIANNE THOMPSON, 47, marketing director

Overall package: £235,000.

First full year under long-term incentive plan, with benefits of £16,000. Bonus of £11,000.

DAVID RIGG, 50, former communications director

Overall package: £284,000, down from £333,000.

Resigned in October. Salary of £82,000 was boosted by bonus of £87,000 and long-term performance payout of £109,000, plus benefits of £26,000.

SIR GEORGE RUSSELL, 62, chairman

Salary, his only payment from Camelot, rose from £68,000 to £71,000 (4.5 per cent).

Chief executive stands to receive

£1m in bonus pay if firm's licence

is renewed, writes Jon Ashworth

CAMELOT unveiled large pay rises for some directors and record profits of £80.9 million yesterday. Tim Holley, the chief executive, will also receive a one-off payment of more than £1 million if Camelot's licence to run the National Lottery is renewed in 2001.

Lottery sales rose 17 per cent to £5.5 billion in the year ending in March, leaving Camelot's pre-tax profits 14 per cent higher. After-tax profits were up 16 per cent at £54.2 million — more than £1 million a week. Nearly £1.6 billion was raised during the year for good causes.

Mr Holley, whose pay rose from £590,000 to £636,000 last year, will collect 12 months' basic salary — currently £284,267 — as a "loyalty bonus" for staying until the licence expires in September

2001 and a further 12 months' salary upon renewal. The payments are in addition to his annual remuneration.

There will be similar windfalls for the rest of the board. Mr Holley's 1997 package included £125,563 in performance-related bonus and £202,335 as the final payment under a long-term incentive plan. A further £104,181 was paid into his pension scheme, taking his total remuneration to nearly £740,000.

Sales of Instantis fell by £75.5 million to £801 million despite innovations such as the BBC gameshow *The National Lottery Big Ticket*, which costs £500,000 an episode. TV Dreams scratchcard sales, linked to the show, have been disappointing.

Sir George Russell, the Camelot chairman, said the lottery was well on the way to



Tim Holley, the Camelot chief executive, whose overall package rose almost 8 per cent to £636,000 last year

raising £10 billion for good causes by 2001. Camelot returns 42 per cent of sales to Government, compared with an average of 35 per cent elsewhere.

There was no comment yesterday on the pay rises from Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, whose outspoken

attack on last year's increases sparked a confrontation between Camelot and the Government in which three directors threatened to resign rather than give up their bonuses. A Culture Department spokesman described the pay issue as "old hat", saying payments due to Mr

Holley in 2001 were "a matter for Camelot". The Government has moderated its stance on the lottery, shifting from "not for profit" to "not for excessive profit".

However, John Maxton, a Labour member of the Culture, Media and Sport Commons Select Committee, told the *Today* programme that it was "mythology" to claim that Camelot staff needed big salaries, although they could be paid in non-profitmaking organisations. "It's the money going to shareholders that is the problem."

Mr Maxton urged the Government to ensure that the next lottery franchise went to a non-profitmaking body.

Camelot paid £51 million to buy out GTEch, the American firm that provided the technology to run the lottery, and a further £6.7 million in dividends. GTEch earned £30 million in supply contracts. Camelot's shareholders re-

ceived £30 million in dividends during the year. Peter Murphy, Camelot finance director, said the profits represented less than 1p in every pound spent on the lottery. Not only had money to the good causes risen by 23 per cent, but the proportion of money going to the Government in lottery duty, tax and the National Lottery Distribution Fund was up 1.5 per cent.

He said: "At less than 1p in the pound, and in the context of the amount of money that's going to the good causes, I think our profits are absolutely reasonable."

Salary packets next year are likely to drop because no more payments are being made under the long-term incentive scheme. Instead, staff throughout the company will be entitled to an extra year's salary if they stay with Camelot until the end of its licence in 2001 — a bonus which will be based on 2001 salaries.

Autumn date for regulator team

By CAROL MIDDLEY
MEDIA CORRESPONDENT

THE five people who will replace the National Lottery's one-man watchdog will be chosen this autumn, the Department of Culture, Media and Sport said yesterday.

They will serve on a new collective National Lottery Commission, which will act as the official regulator. The single post of Ofot director-general, previously held by Peter Davis, was scrapped by Chris Smith, the Culture Secretary, earlier this year in the wake of Richard Branson's libel victory over Guy Snowden, of GTEch. Mr Davis was forced to resign over the case.

The salaried posts will be advertised after the National Lottery Bill is given Royal Assent next month. Applicants will have to show interest or expertise in lotteries, current affairs or business matters, a department spokesman said. Those chosen will be expected to serve for ap-



Davis resigned from Ofot after libel case

proximately one day a week. They will appoint their own chief executive, a civil servant, later this year.

Mr Smith said that the five-member team would strengthen regulation of the Lottery. He said it would also be better for the operator, who would not be "subject to the whim of a single individual regulator". The commission is due to be in operation early next year.

PC accused of using CS spray unlawfully

By ADAM FRESKO

A PENSIONER was temporarily blinded with CS spray by a policeman after he refused to move his car from a double yellow line while dropping his disabled wife at the hairdresser's, a court was told yesterday.

In the first case of its kind, PC Andrew Taylor, 30, is accused of occasioning actual bodily harm by unlawfully using the spray on Kenneth Whitaker, 67. PC Taylor denies the charge.

Mr Whitaker was dropping his wife off in May last year in Kempston, near Bedford, when a police car pulled up. Luton Crown Court was told.

He said the officer accused him of causing an obstruction. Mr Whitaker refused to leave his car, saying he had done nothing wrong, and the officer started to tug at him. Mr Whitaker told the court: "I suddenly felt a blow in my face. I was not aware of what it was, only of the excruciating pain in my right eye."

Stuart Trimmer, for the prosecution, said the "unjustified and unlawful use of CS spray" was as if the officer had "taken his baton and beaten Mr Whitaker to get him out of the car".

The officer said in a statement that Mr Whitaker had twice tried to bite him, and he had "felt in fear of my safety". The trial continues.

Landlords open gate wider for ramblers

By MICHAEL HORNSBY
AGRICULTURE
CORRESPONDENT

LANDOWNERS offered more access to ramblers yesterday, to fend off a legal right to roam over millions of acres of privately owned countryside.

Their offer came in a response to government proposals announced in February for opening up 3.5 million acres of mountain, moor, heath, down and registered common land to walkers, who are usually restricted to tracks and paths.

Ian MacNicol, the president of the Country Landowners' Association, whose 50,000 members are estimated to own half of England and Wales, said: "The Government offers two options: we strongly support the voluntary approach and are totally opposed to a new statutory right of access."

The association said that it was prepared to create permanent new paths and to agree with local councils to wider access off paths, provided that this did not conflict with farming or conserving wildlife.

Kate Ashbrook, access campaigner for the Ramblers' Association, said: "Instead of the public being free to walk on open, uncultivated hills, across commons and up mountains, local authorities would have to negotiate each agreement individually with each landowner."

Save 43%

Everyone promises to undercut BT's basic international rates.

So do we.

Save up to 43% on international calls with BT.

Whenever you call abroad, day or night, you can save up to 43%.

For just £1 per country per month, BT's Country Calling

Plans give you 25% off calls to that country. You can

choose up to five countries from our list of 100.

When you then add PremierLine and Friends

& Family discounts the total saving is 43%

on up to six nominated numbers.

BT

See how much

you can cut off your

BT phone bill — with BT

Freefone 0800 001 800.

CALLING PLANS ARE FOR CUSTOMERS MAKING CALLS COSTING 25 OR MORE PER MONTH TO EACH COUNTRY CHOSEN. NOT AVAILABLE ON BT CHARGED CARD CALLS. PREMIERLINE COSTS 15 PER QUARTER AND IS FOR CUSTOMERS WITH CALL BILLS OVER £45 PER QUARTER.

£2.2m price on crown jewels of football

Adrian Lee reports on a bid to save Bobby Moore's medals for nation

ENGLISH football is preparing to raise £2.2 million to buy the medals of Bobby Moore, captain of England's victorious 1966 World Cup team, from his former wife.

The deal would involve funding by the National Lottery, be backed by the Football Association and partly financed by the 20 Premiership clubs. It is being co-ordinated by officials at the new Football Museum in Preston.

An application to the Heritage Fund will be submitted within a few days and is likely to be viewed favourably.

The collection includes Moore's solid-gold winner's medal, 43 of his England caps, a Footballer of the Year trophy and a silver salver presented to mark his 100th appearance for his country. The collection, filling two large suitcases, has been independently valued for West Ham United, Moore's first club, at £2.2 million. The Heritage Fund will seek advice from at least two more experts before committing itself to the purchase.

Grant MacDougall, football specialist at Christie's, has described it as "the crown jewels of soccer memorabilia. I have specialised in this field for nine years and I can honestly say I have never seen anything to match this. Bobby Moore's achievements were so great that his collection of trophies has assumed an historical as well as a sporting significance."

Moore, who died aged 51 from bowel cancer five years ago, left the collection to his first wife, Tina, who lives in Miami. She had planned to auction the medals and it was feared they could go abroad.

West Ham has already submitted an application for lottery money to buy the medals. But there are fears that the bid will fail because the club is a private company and priority is given to



Bobby Moore with some of his many medals

museums. It is understood that Mrs Moore, 54, has agreed to delay auctioning the collection until a decision is made by the Heritage Fund.

Kevin Moore, director of the Football Museum, which has already received £7.65 million lottery funding, said the bid was a back-up to the West Ham application. "It is a matter of saving this collection in any way, should the West Ham application for lottery funding fail."

The Premier League, which represents the 20 Premiership clubs, has agreed to donate £100,000 — shared equally among the clubs. Private sponsorship may also be sought. To meet lottery criteria, at least 10 per cent of the cash must be provided by the applicants.

Mrs Moore is said to be sympathetic to efforts to keep the trophies in England and allowed valuers — working for the museum — to view them in her bank vault. The asking price is thought to be between £2 million and £3 million.

The museum is due to open in late 1999 and hopes to attract 100,000 people a year. If saved for the nation, the

ball and Bobby Moore was the greatest England captain of all. It would be an enormous shame if they went abroad."

The FA is supporting the bid, although it has not committed any cash.

The Heritage Fund, which is to seek its own independent valuations, normally takes several months to process applications but bids can be "fast-tracked", with decisions taken in weeks. A fund source said: "This is a fantastic opportunity. Securing collections such as this is what we are here for."

If Mrs Moore agrees to sell privately to a British museum, she can avoid paying tax.

The market in football memorabilia is booming. In 1996 *The Mirror* paid £80,000 for the ball with which Geoff Hurst scored his hat-trick in the 1966 final. George Cohen, a member of the victorious team, is expected to make up to £80,000 when his winner's medal is auctioned later this month.

collection would go on national tour.

Kevin Moore said he believed it was appropriate to spend lottery cash on the collection. "It is an important part of our heritage. Winning the World Cup was the crowning moment in English foot-



Bar-Bel helping her baby to safety. It collapsed later from exhaustion

Keeper goes to rescue of drowning baby hippo

By A CORRESPONDENT

A NEW-BORN hippopotamus was saved from drowning yesterday as firefighters pumped 200,000 gallons from a safari park lake.

The 50lb, 18in tall female was born early yesterday on a ledge beside the hippo lake at the West Midlands Safari Park in Bewdley, Worcestershire. But heavy rain swamped the ledge and the baby kept wandering over the edge into deep water.

The baby's mother, Bar-Bel, rescued it twice by pushing it back to the ledge with her nose, but keepers were concerned that it would drown unless the water level was reduced below the ledge.

After six hours of pumping, the baby made its way to the shallows at the edge of the lake where it collapsed, exhausted. Bob Lawrence, the keeper, said that, while the mother's back was turned, he lifted it out of the shallows with a keepnet.

The baby was given oxygen and taken to the park's recovery room. "It's still 50-50," Mr Lawrence said last night.

nn date for lator team



Bobby and Tina Moore in 1967. They separated in 1984

Ex-wife's goal is to make family financially secure

FROM DAVID ADAMS IN MIAMI

BOBBY MOORE'S first wife said that she wanted to sell her former husband's trophies to give her financial security and to help the couple's two children.

Tina Moore, 55, who lives in a simple flat on the Venetian Isles causeway, one of Miami's most attractive waterfront districts, moved to Florida several years ago and works as a public relations consultant. She has not remarried.

The couple were married for 24 years and had two children before their divorce in 1984. Their son Dean Moore, 29, runs a London pub and has a six-year-old daughter, Poppy. The Moores' daughter, Roberta, also has a young child, Freddie, 2.

Mrs Moore, has received dozens of inquiries about the extensive collection of medals and trophies since putting it on the market earlier in the year. At the time she said it was what her ex-husband would have wanted. "Like many women I have a very strong spiritual sense and firmly believe that Bobby is with me at this time," she told *The Sun* in March.

"I've been agonising over what to do about his trophies for months but always felt that he has pointed me in the right direction," she added.

She said she feels sure "he would want me to enjoy my future — and be financially secure... selling his collection will give me the means to

have a happy retirement and look after his children for years to come."

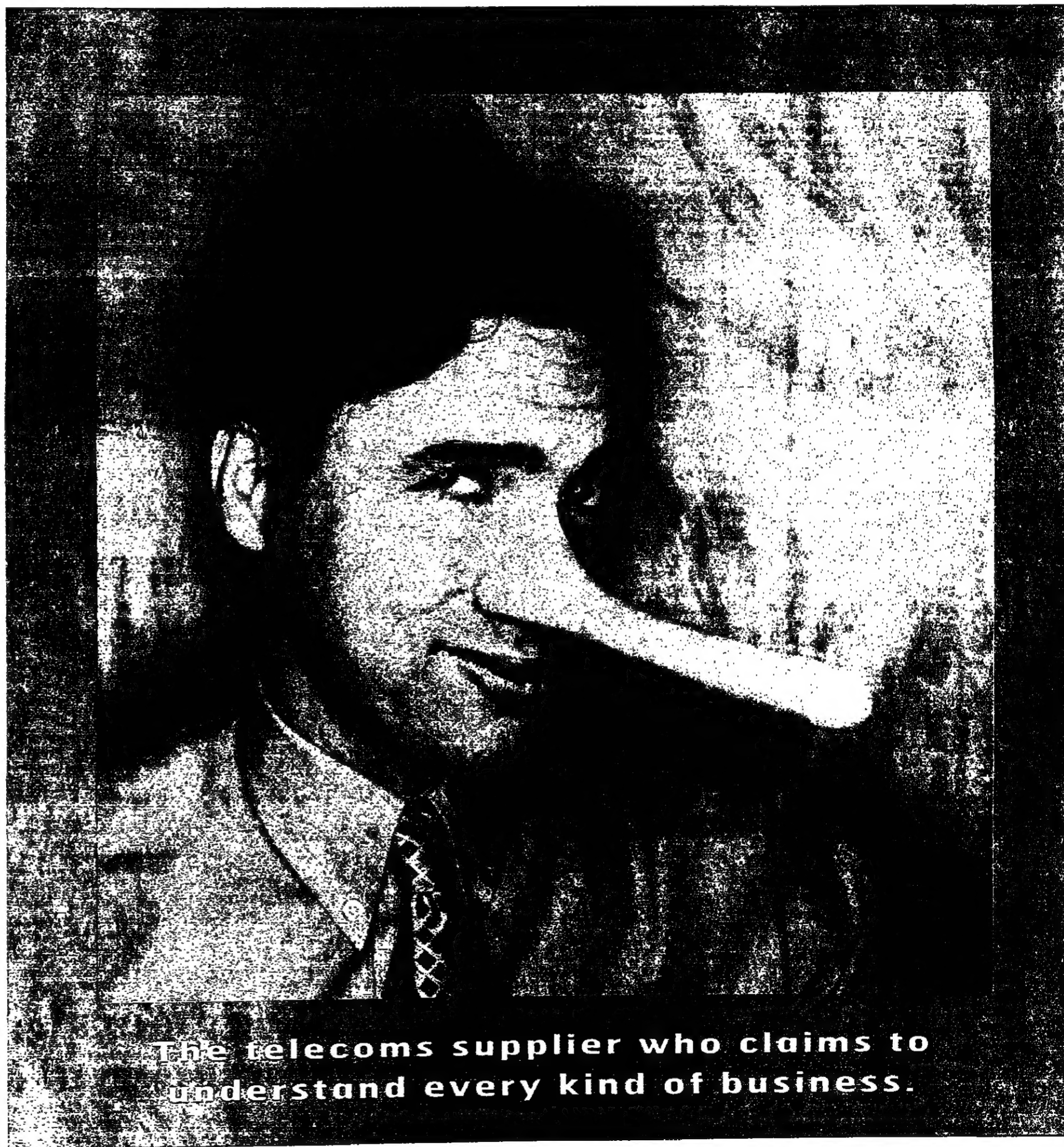
"I know Bobby would want his trophies in a soccer hall of fame or a museum where everyone can see them. But that will only happen when the price is right — and I don't feel the £2 million I am asking for is unreasonable in view of what he achieved. After all, no other Englishman has ever lifted the World Cup — he was arguably our greatest sporting hero."

She said that at the time of their marriage break-up in 1984 Moore had promised he would always care for his first wife and their two children. Feeling guilty over their separation, he left most of his soccer memorabilia at the couple's home in Essex when he left her for his second wife, Stephanie.

She keeps most of the collection, which also includes a silver disc for sales of England's 1970 World Cup song *Back Home*, a silver salver commemorating Moore's hundredth England cap, and a gold coin to mark the last game of his good friend, Pele, in two huge suitcases and a holdall.

After Moore's death the collection was locked away in a London bank vault.

There is one item which Mrs Moore says is not for sale. The insignia of the OBE, which Moore received from the Queen in 1967, still holds too great a sentimental value to the family.



The telecoms supplier who claims to understand every kind of business.

Business is so varied, and organisations so different, no telecoms supplier can be familiar with them all.

That's why, at Racad Telecom, we focus on a realistic number of sectors, and give customers the very best solution from our range of voice and data services.

We offer dedicated sector teams in transport,

Government, retail, banking, insurance and finance, and manufacturing. Each one has extensive experience and fully appreciates how telecoms can drive those businesses.

For corporate telecoms you can believe in, call our response line on 08700 007 007 or visit our Web site.

Racad Telecom Phoenix House, Station Hill, Reading, Berkshire RG1 1NB. www.racadtelecom.com



Flood warnings at Easter 'were issued too late'

THE Environment Agency made serious mistakes in the way it responded to the severe flooding in mid-Wales and parts of central and eastern England over Easter, an independent report said yesterday.

Flood warnings in some areas were issued too late, or not at all, and the agency was not helped by Met Office forecasts that failed to predict the severity of the rainfall.

The report estimated that the floods, in which five people died, damaged between 4,000 and 5,000 homes and other properties, with 75mm of rain, equivalent to the normal total over six weeks, falling in 36 hours in many places.

The interim report was produced by an independent review team, chaired by Peter Bye, a former chief executive of Suffolk County Council, which was set up by the agency after the floods.

Although the report did not comment directly on the performance of the Met Office, it did not dispute an internal assessment by the Environment Agency accusing the office of

Environment Agency criticised for response to emergency that left 5 dead, writes Michael Hornsby

having "grossly underestimated" actual rainfall in an Easter weekend forecast of "cold with rain, heavy at times".

The report also said that the agency appeared to be accurate in its assessment that "flood defences in many of the hardest-hit areas, such as Northampton and Banbury, were not designed for the magnitude of the floods seen over Easter, which might be expected to occur perhaps once in every 100 to 150 years".

A spokesman for the Met Office said yesterday: "Our forecasts were not perfect, but we cannot accept that we

grossly underestimated the rainfall. We were certainly forecasting very heavy rain in many places."

The report said: "There is evidence in some locations of unsatisfactory forecasting and warning dissemination, apparent slow reaction to events, confusion and misunderstanding among the public caught up in the floods, and unsatisfactory liaison between agency staff and emergency services."

The report noted that global warming could possibly lead to higher rainfall and more frequent river flooding, and said the agency did not appear to be taking this into account in future planning.

Mr Bye said all the evidence suggested that the Easter flooding was in places the most serious seen this century. "This was a rare event that occurred with extreme speed and intensity. Anything we say about the performance of the agency or other authorities should be seen in that context."

The Environment Agency was set up in April 1996 and only took over responsibility for issuing flood warnings later that year. Previously this task had been left largely to local police forces.

Archie Robertson, the agency's director of operations, said he was pleased that the report had recognised that flood warning was "a recent and challenging addition to the agency's responsibilities".

Among improvements being introduced is an increase from 5,000 to 25,000 in the number of homes linked to an automatic telephone system that relays flood warnings directly to people living in high-risk areas. About 50,000 homes in England and Wales are regarded as being at high risk of flooding.

The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds said the widespread loss of natural wetland in England and the canalisation of waterways had increased the risk of flooding.

"The Government should investigate an immediate review of land use in the catchment of river systems vulnerable to flooding," Phil Rothwell, head of policy operations, said.



Dr Douglas-Dixon moments before he was shot

Church books save doctor from a bullet in the back

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SET of religious books saved the life of a church aid worker shot during a gun attack on a shop in the Philippines.

A bullet passed through four books in Andrew Douglas-Dixon's backpack and came to rest in the Book of Mormon. Four other bullets injured his arm, hand and foot.

"I now feel as though someone is looking out for me," Dr Douglas-Dixon, 38, a medical doctor and Mormon minister, said from his home in Tong, West Yorkshire, where he was recovering yesterday.

He was three days into a year-long mission to Manila when he was caught up in the shooting. Five men, including two policemen, died shortly afterwards in a battle with the gunmen.

He said the firing began after he went into a chemist's shop to buy a film. "I was at the counter and saw some people get out of this jeep, but I didn't realise what was happening. I wasn't really taking much notice until

these people started spraying bullets, then I took a lot of notice."

"Almost immediately I was hit in the back, which threw me into the counter. I broke my arm and a few fingers on the counter. Then I felt two bullets hit me in my feet and two more in my hand. My life flashed before my eyes."

Rhea Garcia, a missionary nurse, gave him first aid. He said: "I was incapable of doing anything. The bullets had severed the tendons, muscles, and arteries in my right hand and I was losing a lot of blood. She stopped the flow. The man next to me had been shot in the chest. He was only just alive, but I found out later on he had died there on the floor."

One of the bullets went through four books but was stopped by the fifth — a hardback that was an inch thick. "If it had not been for the books, the bullet would have gone right through me," he said. "Normally we would not carry so many books, but because the Philippines have 11 different dia-



Andrew Douglas-Dixon at home: he feels "someone is looking out for me"

lects and two main languages. I was given books in the different languages. I picked them up minutes before this happened. I'm glad I did."

He was told that the gang were trying to steal medical supplies from the shop, which was called Bong Lucky. He said: "They just sprayed the shop and destroyed it with bullets. Every-one was showered with glass

from the window. I was in the middle of the shop. To my left there was a bloke lying in a pool of blood. He was obviously dead."

After the shooting, a week ago, he was taken to a local hospital, then transferred to the Mormons' own medical centre where surgeons removed the bullets and glass and stitched his hand. Two days later, he was flown back to England and taken to

Bradford Royal Infirmary, where he once worked. He was released on Monday.

Dr Douglas-Dixon was carrying out medical and religious work with the poor in the shanty towns of the Philippines capital. His experience has not put him off. "You can't judge an entire people on the actions of a few terrorists. When my hand is healed, I will go back and finish what I tried to start."

TOWNS AT RISK

Four places were identified in the report for further investigation: Northampton, where flooding affected about 2,000 properties; Leamington, Warwickshire, not previously thought to be at risk and where 400 properties were flooded; Kidlington, Oxfordshire, also not previously regarded as at risk, where 250 properties were affected; and Skeffington, Monmouthshire, where 30 homes were flooded.

Questions over the adequacy of flood defences and warning systems were most acute in these areas. The failure of local authorities to control unsuitable housing development in flood plains also needed addressing.



Banbury caught the worst of Easter floods

Home Insurance. We guarantee* 1/3rd back.

Good news for you and your home! Insure your home with British Gas Home Insurance and, whatever your existing premium, we'll guarantee* to give you 1/3rd back for you to use to cut the cost of your British Gas bill or to save money on other British Gas products and services. Alternatively, you may choose to select valuable Goldfish points, redeemable against a wide range of everyday essentials.

- Peace of mind, quality cover.
- Tailor-made for you and your home.
- Extensive additional benefits.
- FREE 24 hour emergency helpline.
- Cover when you're away from home.

No need to wait for renewal, call now.

So why wait to get 1/3rd back guaranteed? Save now! Just complete and return the coupon below or call FREE, quoting the 1/3rd back code which appears below, on 0800 9 15 14 13. We're waiting to take your call.

POST THE COUPON TODAY OR CALL FREE ON
0800 9 15 14 13

Please remember to have your current insurance documents to hand. Lines open 8.00am-9.00pm weekdays, 9.00am-5.00pm Saturdays. *N.B. Offer subject to Privilege Insurance's underwriting criteria. Full terms and conditions available on request.

Please post in an envelope FREE of charge to: British Gas Home Insurance, FREEPOST NEA 3944, LEEDS LS1 1Y. Or call FREE on 0800 9 15 14 13.

Name (Mr, Mrs, Miss):		Address:	
Daytime Tel:		Evening Tel:	
Postcode:		Best time to call:	
Renewal month (Building):		Contract:	

An idea you'll warm to

British Gas
Home Insurance

Ignorance puts men at mercy of 'near epidemic' in cancers

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

MEN know more about women's cancers than their own, a poll has shown. Although prostate cancer kills 10,000 men in Britain every year, only a fifth of those questioned claimed to know much about that or testicular cancer.

Out of nearly 1,000 men polled by MORI for the Institute of Cancer Research, only one in ten knew anything about a blood test — prostate specific antigen (PSA) — that can reveal a risk of developing the disease.

Yet 29 per cent of the men knew a great deal or a fair amount about breast cancer, while 46 per cent claimed the same level of knowledge about lung cancer and 51 per cent about heart disease. "There is

a woeful lack of awareness about prostate cancer," Colin Campbell, of the institute, said when presenting the results of the poll yesterday. "Yet we are on the verge of an epidemic, and recent results show that the PSA test can reduce deaths threefold."

The institute has launched an appeal for research funding for prostate cancer. About £1 million a year is spent on research into the disease, compared with £15 million into HIV/AIDS and £40 million into heart disease.

The PSA test is of limited use because only a fifth of those who show positive will die of prostate cancer. Doctors cannot identify which cases need treatment, though fur-

ther tests can narrow the range of uncertainty.

The preferred treatment — an operation — leaves most men impotent and a few incontinent too. Given this stark choice, only a third of the men questioned said that they would be certain or very likely to have the operation. Their responses depended greatly on how many years of extra life the operation would give.

A minority — 15 per cent — said they would never have the operation if it meant incontinence. Given an increased life expectancy of five years, 28 per cent would have the operation, and given an extra ten years, 64 per cent would. Similar proportions would have the operation despite the threat of impotence.

Professor Cooper said: "It is appalling that men who test positive have to choose between the risk of developing the disease or a 90 per cent chance of becoming impotent and 20 per cent chance of becoming incontinent through surgery." Better tests were needed, which could come only through research.

In practice, surgery would not be undertaken on the basis of a PSA test alone, but, to keep the issue simple, this was the dilemma presented in the poll. Even with further tests, the risks of impotence and incontinence remain.

The NHS has fought shy of introducing the test because of its uncertainties. But a Canadian study published last month showed that screening involving the PSA test, a digital rectal examination and ultrasound cut deaths from prostate cancer by a third. The researchers called for screening for all men at the age of 50, and at 40 for those with a family history of the disease.

Professor Cooper said that introducing the test in Britain would be expensive as millions of men would be involved. But the benefits were clearer than they had been for breast or cervical screening when introduced.

Lung patients in chemotherapy trial

By IAN MURRAY, MEDICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE routine refusal of health authorities to offer chemotherapy to lung cancer patients has made Britain a testbed for finding out if the treatment works.

Reporting progress on what researchers call the Big Lung Trial (BLT), Stephen Spiro, Professor of Respiratory Diseases at University College Hospital, London, said whereas only 5 per cent of British patients were offered chemotherapy, it was given to all patients in America, 95 per cent of patients in Germany and 90 per cent in France.

"Britain is one of the few countries in the world where there is an open mind as to whether chemotherapy will work," Professor Spiro said.

One reason health authorities were not prepared to spend money on the 40,000 Britons in whom lung cancer is diagnosed each year was that the disease is smoking-related in 80 per cent of cases.

The trial is recruiting patients from three of three categories — those who have an operation, those who have radiotherapy, and those who have neither — prepared to be randomly chosen to have either chemotherapy or normal palliative treatment.

"Chemotherapy does seem to work in many cases, giving a patient a few extra weeks of life. It is relatively cheap," Professor Spiro said.

"However we do not know what the costs are for extra hospital or hospice care and whether or not the patient's quality of life is so affected by chemotherapy that it may not be worth helping them to live longer."

He added: "There is some evidence that chemotherapy does bring a cure in around 5 per cent of cases and if we can prove that it would save thousands of lives worldwide." The trial should produce results in three years.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gang steals street in Liverpool

Thieves have stolen a street in Liverpool. They used a mechanical digger to lift thousands of cobbles from a 100-metre section of road in the Kensington area.

The thieves spent four hours digging up about 5,000 cobbles and taking them away on Sunday. Merseyside Police said people should be suspicious if they are offered large quantities of cheap 19th-century cobbles. They are worth between 45p and £2 each.

Chain reaction

Two 8ft portable lavatories flew off a trailer near Brandon, Suffolk, and a 71-year-old motorist was slightly injured when one hit his oncoming car. Twelve of the kiosks were on the trailer towed by a four-wheel-drive vehicle.

Baby for Gunnell

The hurdler Sally Gunnell gave birth to a 7lb 3oz boy at the Royal Sussex Hospital in Brighton. Ms Gunnell, 31, and her husband, Jonathan Bigg, have still to decide on a name for the baby, who is their first child.

Excess baggage

Cabin staff found a 2ft snake in the overhead lockers of a jet which had just landed at Heathrow from Miami, Florida. A spokeswoman said Virgin Atlantic had no idea how the harmless grass snake got onboard.

Rude awakening

A sleepwalker broke his arms, wrists and four ribs after falling 21ft from the loft conversion of his mother's house in Bath. Julian Bass, 23, was found lying on a concrete path after the noise of his dam fall woke a neighbour's dog.

Bird stops play

A magpie delayed a cricket match at Ryde on the Isle of Wight when it swooped down and stole the keys from the ignition of a motorised roller that was about to prepare the pitch. A tractor had to be summoned to tow the roller away.

Cellnet is changing virtually everything you know about mobile phones.



- First in Fairness.** Cellnet's First in Fairness Programme guarantees that our digital customers never have to worry about getting our best price for their calls every month. We'll compare your bill each month to our other calling plans to see if you would have been charged less on any of them. If so, we'll refund the difference quarterly. Now, what could be fairer than that?
- First in Freedom.** Cellnet's First in Freedom Programme means that you don't have to commit up front to twelve months of subscription charges or pay for calls in advance. Separately, you may choose from five great discount plans that can save you from 3% to 15% extra on your calls. You're free to choose the one you want, if you want, when you want.
- First for Families.** Cellnet's First for Families Programme is the same great savings idea as BT's Friends and Family. You choose 10 phone numbers, and get free discounts of 10% or 50% on every call to those numbers.
- First for Firms.** Cellnet's new First for Firms Programme works just like BT's Friends and Family. It offers businesses the same free discounts of 10% or 50% on all calls to the 10 numbers firms choose.

Available to Cellnet digital customers from Participating Service Providers from 1 July 1998. Subject to status. Terms and Conditions apply. Refunds payable quarterly. Telecom Securicor Cellular Radio Ltd.

Call us now on 1993 40 50 60. We have a lot to talk about.

Cellnet First Programme



men
ar
cers

NEWS IN BRIEF

Gang steal street in Liverpool

Chain reaction

Baby for Gunn

Excess baggage

Kindle awake

Bird stops

Blunkett may close 25 failing schools



Blunkett said no child should languish in a failing school

Minister announces tougher measures as more comprehensives give cause for concern, writes John O'Leary

UP TO 25 failing schools could be closed under measures announced by the Government yesterday, as it was disclosed that the failure rate among comprehensives had increased recently.

From September, schools that fail their Ofsted inspections will be expected to improve within two years. Those considered to be making insufficient progress could be closed by ministers or given a "fresh start" under a new name. David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, said he would not hesitate to use powers included in a Bill now before Parliament. "This is part of an ongoing programme of ensuring that no child is left to languish in a school that is failing them. It is imperative to give them the kind of education they deserve and which

we would want for our own children."

Since Ofsted began its second round of secondary school inspections last autumn, concentrating on schools causing concern, the failure rate has doubled to 4 per cent. The failure rate among primary schools has risen from 2 to 3 per cent, with ministers blaming local authorities for delaying the inspection of their weakest schools. Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, said the rise was worrying, although the secondary school figures had not been a surprise, given that 40 per cent of those inspected recently had previously displayed weaknesses.

Since Ofsted inspections began in 1993, a total of 573 schools have been placed under "special measures", making them subject to regular

monitoring. More than 30 have been closed but 110 have improved sufficiently to be taken off the list.

Mr Blunkett said that, by September, 74 failing schools would have reached the deadline of two years in which they should have improved. He expected two thirds to be cleared in case conferences involving civil servants, inspectors and local authority officials.

Among the prime candidates for closure or a fresh start will be a handful of the 18 schools "named and shamed" by ministers almost a year ago. Five of the schools have been cleared, two given a fresh start and one will close next month. But Ofsted acknowledged that about half of the remaining ten were still causing concern.

Under the new system, inspectors

will assess progress six months after a school has been failed, and the local authority will submit a joint report with Ofsted on future plans a year later. The authority will also be required to justify keeping a failing school open if it has surplus places and there is a popular alternative nearby.

Mr Blunkett said the new approach would avoid the need for the Government to name failing schools, although local authorities might still do so. He added that he was considering how to protect the jobs of teachers who joined failing schools. "People who give their commitment to help the school need not be in fear of their prospects."

Teaching unions strongly criticised the new measures. Doug McAvoy, general secretary of the

National Union of Teachers, said: "A headline approach to failing schools would be detrimental to pupils and does not cater for individual cases."

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said it would be possible to turn a school around within two years only if it received effective support. Where the factors contributing to failure were outside a school's control, a two-year deadline might be an unfair penalty.

However, Pat Petch, who chairs the National Governors' Council, welcomed the plans. "It is the children who lose out in failing schools. Children who have the chance of a good education denied them find it difficult, sometimes impossible, to catch up later."

RAOUL DIXON

Off to a fresh start, with £3m aid and a new name

By JOHN O'LEARY, EDUCATION EDITOR

BLAKELAW School, in Newcastle upon Tyne, will be the first to experience the Government's "fresh start" system. From September, it will re-open under a different name with new faces filling half the teaching posts.

After Blakelaw failed its Ofsted inspection in March 1996, the number of entrants plummeted and the local authority was resigned to closure. Only 54 children accepted places last year in a school built for year-groups of 120.

However, councillors agreed to allow the school to become a model for the treatment of failing schools. Almost £3 million is being spent improving the shabby premises, a new head teacher has been appointed and the re-named Firfield Community School may become the hub of one of the first education action zones.

Russ Wallace, the acting head teacher, said yesterday that the series of initiatives

taken at the school would take five years to bear fruit. But the two-year timescale set by the Government was the minimum needed to show that a school was overcoming failure.

When Mr Wallace arrived at Blakelaw 14 months ago, seconded from a neighbouring comprehensive, the immediate priority was to cut the level of truancy, which was the third worst in England. A year later, after the appointment of a second education welfare officer to follow up absentees, attendance had improved from 66 per cent to 80 per cent.

The introduction of a basic uniform, suggested by the pupils, has also helped to improve behaviour. This summer will tell whether GCSE results have begun to improve. Last year 42 per cent of 16-year-olds failed to register a pass of any sort.

Mr Wallace said: "Our recovery was delayed because



New broom in the classroom: Russ Wallace, the acting head teacher of Blakelaw School, to be renamed Firfield Community School

we were due to close, but we now have big business involved in the school, both as governors and in helping to develop the vocational courses we want to focus on. It has also taken time to make new appointments, although the quality of staff attracted by

the fresh start is extremely high."

Among the new arrivals is Carole McAlpine, who was the head of a comprehensive in Fife and is already preparing Blakelaw for its new identity. As well as being refurbished, the school has

acquired new computer suites, which will be offered for community use.

The original model for the "fresh start" process was the Phoenix School, in Hamersmith, West London, which was given a new identity and new senior staff by the local

authority under the Conservative Government. Last year's GCSE results were still lower than in 1993, but the experiment has been hailed as a success.

An Ofsted spokeswoman said that two years was considered the minimum needed

to alter the culture of a school and demonstrate the improvement necessary to be removed from the list requiring special measures. Appointments had to be made, the necessary retraining carried out and staff given time to adopt new approaches.

Call for formal drugs courses

ANTI-DRUGS education should be part of the national curriculum for all schools, according to Home Office advisers (Stewart Tindler writes).

The Advisory Council on the Misuse of Drugs says in a report that the dangers of drug use would be more effectively taught in a coherent pro-

gramme of lessons rather than more loosely organised tutorials.

The new subject could also include preparing children for the responsibilities of citizenship and parenthood and be called a "personal social education programme".

The council, which includes doctors, social and youth

workers, says there is support from Ofsted for the change but recognises the new subject would take time to establish: teachers would need more training.

The report calls for anti-drugs education to include legal stimulants such as tobacco, alcohol and substances such as glue.

Playtime cuts 'stop children making friends'

By VICTORIA FLETCHER

CUTS in breaktimes in favour of more time for teaching are preventing children from learning basic social skills in the playground, a report claims today.

Since 1990, nearly half of England's primary and secondary schools have reduced the traditional lunch-hour and cut out the afternoon breaktime as the pressure of league table status increases.

However, a report by Peter Blatchford, from the Institute of Education, which is based on three separate studies, claims the shift means pupils are at risk of failing to learn how to make friends.

One study asked pupils and teachers at primary and secondary schools what they thought of breaktime. Pupils saw the break as a time to get away from the pressures of work and meet friends, while teachers felt the time off usually led to playground fights and unruly behaviour.

"In one in four schools, both primary and secondary, the view was that the standard of behaviour at breaktime had declined. There was a perception of less respect toward authority and the environment, an increase in aggression, and more individual pupils with difficult behaviour," the report says.

Teachers also said primary pupils had to be taught how to play games while children at secondary schools needed greater supervision at breaktime to reduce the possibility of bullying and fights.

Dr Blatchford said the positive responses to breaktime given by inner-London school pupils over a ten-year period reinforced its importance as more than just time off work.

The report also suggests that in recent years, primary pupils have had less opportunity to make friends because they are driven to school. Breaktime allows them to interact with peers, and although some said they feared bullying, this was usually outweighed by the friendships they made.

Dr Blatchford is now urging schools not to cut breaktime any further. "From a pupil's perspective, breaktime can be the main setting for social life in school," the report says.



Surfing the worldwide web needn't cost you the earth. you get 250 minutes of local weekend call time, plus services

Use a local server at the weekend for 5 minutes and it'll cost you just 5p.

If you add BT's Friends & Family

and PremierLine discounts it's even cheaper, with savings of up to 25%. That's not all we do for net users. With BT ValuePlan

Save up to 25% on your internet calls

Divert your incoming calls

250 extra minutes of local weekend surfing

like Call Diversion (this lets you divert incoming calls to another line). To find out more, call Freefone 0800 800 050,

or visit our website at

www.on-line.bt.com

BT It's good to talk

Steer clear of Portugal if you want a safe drive

FROM CHARLES BREMMER IN BRUSSELS

PORTUGAL has Europe's most dangerous roads. The death rate is nearly four times worse than Britain's, the safest in the European Union. Other blackspots are Greece, whose road conditions are going downhill fastest, and former East Germany, where road deaths have doubled.

Germany as a whole has a moderate accident rate. Improvements in road safety have been especially sharp in Britain and the Nordic states, according to a study of accidents in 1989-95 published yesterday by Eurostat, the EU's statistical office.

Britain recorded 64 fatalities per million people in 1995, just below Sweden's 65. This compared with 116 for Germany, 145 for France, 147 for Spain, 195 for Greece and 217 for Portugal. Italy, often the butt of driving jokes, has a death rate of 114, below the EU average of 119.

Measured by region, the most dangerous roads are in southeast Belgium, where the death rate is 14 times higher than in Hamburg, the safest. Greater London is the second safest region. The second most dangerous area is the Algarve region of Portugal. Britain's blackest spot is Lincolnshire.

A total of 44,195 people lost their lives on EU roads in 1995, 14 per cent fewer than in 1989, despite a sharp rise in traffic. Neil Kinnoch, the Transport Commissioner, said yesterday that congestion was costing the EU more than £75 billion a year.

The high interest savings account you can access immediately. Like Now.

The Instant Gold Savings Account gives you instant access to your money as often as you want, with no loss of interest.

And because it's a branch based account, instant access really does mean instant access.

What's more, Instant Gold also comes with a high interest rate of up to 6% gross p.a.*

So, if you've got £2,500 or more to invest, call 0500 758 400 or cut the coupon. But hurry. Like now.

Call free quoting ref. below: **0500 758 400 TSB**

Ref: TM3/6 Yes, I would like to receive further information about the TSB Instant Gold Savings Account.

Surname: (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms) First Name:

Address:

Postcode: Telephone:

Do you have an existing TSB account? ☐ If yes, is it a savings account ☐ We'd like to contact you from time to time with details about services from TSB and the TSB group of companies. If we think they'd interest you. However, if you'd prefer not to be told about these services, please tick this box ☐.

Send to: TSB PhoneBank, FREEPOST (BM6334), Glasgow G2 8BR.

*Interest rate quoted for £250,000. Offers made on a non-recourse basis. Interest rate subject to change without notice. TSB Bank plc, Registered Office: 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. Registered in England and Wales. Number 1069208. TSB Bank Scotland plc, Registered Office: 120 George Street, Edinburgh, EH2 4JH. Registered in Scotland. Number 05237. TSB Bank plc and TSB Bank Scotland plc are members of the Banking Ombudsman Scheme and signatories to the Banking Code. To ensure security for our customers and staff and to help maintain service quality, some calls may be recorded and monitored.

Is
Leary

Playtime cuts 'stop children making friends'

BY VICTORIA ELLIOTT

CHILDREN'S breaktimes are being cut to save money, according to a report by the Department of Education. The report, which was published yesterday, says that schools are being forced to reduce the amount of time that children spend playing together. This is because of a shortage of teachers and a need to save money. The report says that this is a bad idea because it will stop children from making friends and learning important social skills. It also says that it will make it harder for children to learn to share and to work together. The report calls for more teachers and for more money to be spent on schools. It also calls for more time to be spent on play.

Song and dance over £48m refit at Sadler's Wells

Ballet does not want opera in its nice new home, report Dalya Alberge and Marcus Binney

LONDON'S newest theatre is a dancer's paradise. It has a gym and fitness centre, three rehearsal studios, a whirlpool bath and its own well. What the rebuilt Sadler's Wells does not have, its promoters insist, are facilities for grand opera.

As the £48 million, lottery-funded dance theatre nears completion for an October opening, Mary Allen, former chief executive of Covent Garden, home of the Royal Ballet and the Royal Opera, has argued that English National Opera should also be housed at Sadler's Wells.

Ian Albery, the chief executive, said: "This is one of the very few theatres in the whole world purpose designed for dance. It does not have the wing space needed for grand opera and all its heavily constructed scenery which has to be shifted back and forth between scenes."

Mr Albery and his colleagues await the recommendations of Sir Richard Eyre's report on housing opera, fearing once again that ballet's big sister may take over.

For the dancers and audience alike, the new theatre is a far cry from the cramped and dilapidated facilities to which they had grown accustomed. Features include a facility to serve buffet food to the full 1,500 audience and a dedicated system of corridors and ducts for cabling for outside broadcasts.

The original Sadler's Wells water — the well was dug by the founder, Dick Sadler in 1683 — is polluted, but a borehole has been sunk 200 metres into the chalk and will

supply water at 12C to cool the theatre in summer, fill the water tanks for sprinklers and also be bottled up for ballet fountains. It is planned to sell half-litre bottles of sparkling or flat water at a price yet to be fixed. A spokeswoman said it would be comparable to "high-quality bottled waters".

Mr Albery continued: "Until now, we have had nowhere in London to take major international touring companies. In the new theatre we will open with the Rambert Dance Company, the world's leaders, followed by the Royal Ballet, Frankfurt Ballet and a major Japanese dance company after Christmas."

The old Sadler's Wells had a proscenium arch of less than 10 metres. The new 15-metre wide stage and heightened fly tower will bring it into line with the world's best dance theatres. The new theatre, the sixth on the site, has been designed by the architects Renon Howard Wood Levine, with Nicholas Hare Associates designing the new external frontage.

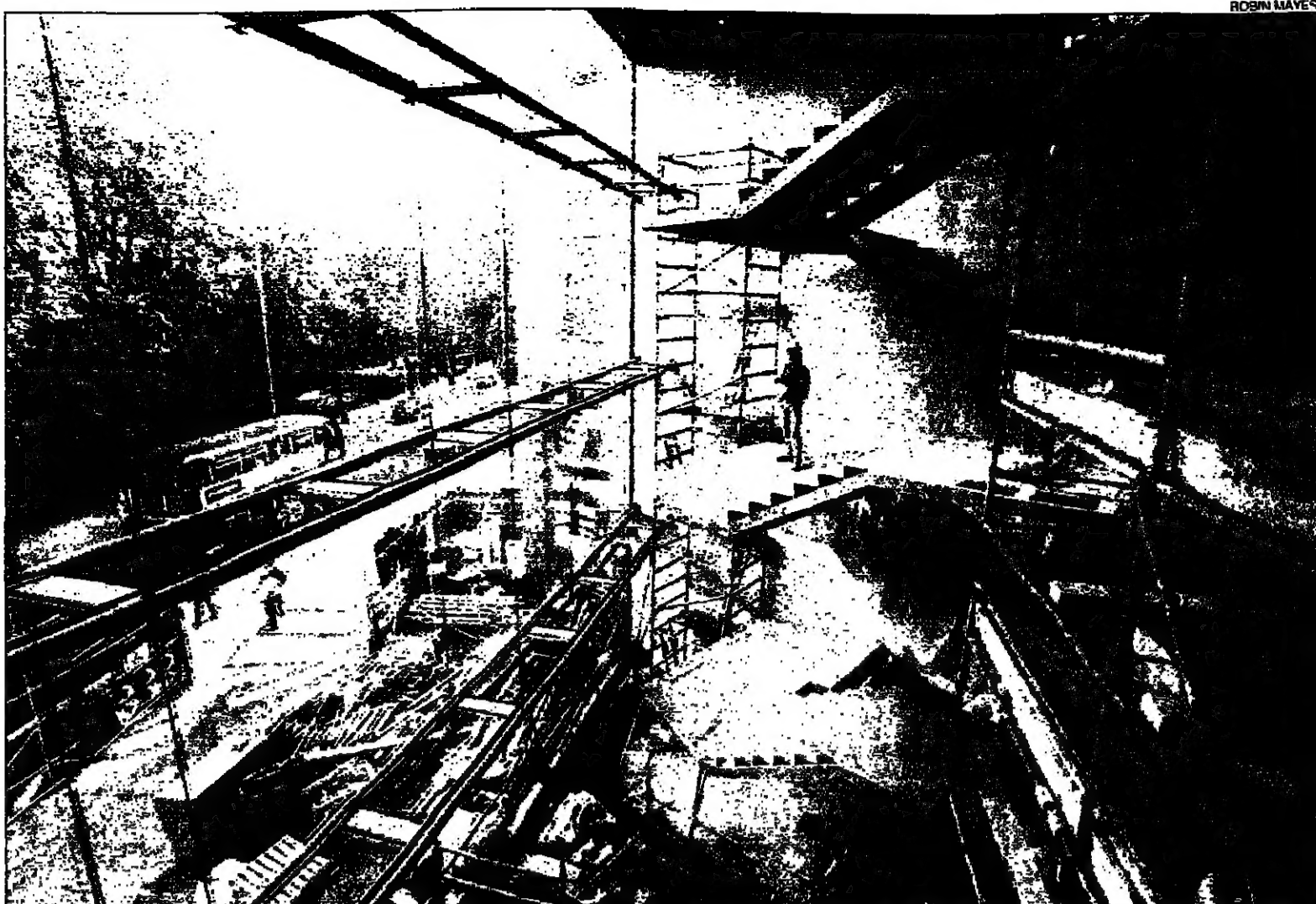
"The show should start out in the street," Mr Albery said.

The theatre has an all-glass front inside which will be a huge video screen announcing programmes and showing clips from productions. "It's a dramatic step forward from the neon signs on Shaftesbury Avenue."

Sadler's Wells will be put to the opera test before Christmas, when the Royal Opera appears for three weeks. "We can have modern opera or baroque opera or Handel, but we cannot do 19th-century German or Italian grand opera, which need huge, expensive sets."

In October, the Royal Ballet, like the Royal Opera awaiting the refurbishment of Covent Garden, returns to its birthplace with four richly varied programmes, including a premiere of a new ballet by Ashley Page.

Tickets will be on sale by post from June 22 and by telephone or in person from July 20.



The glass-fronted foyer at Sadler's Wells. The glass partitions will slide back before each performance to give clear access to the theatre

Reynolds seeks to reopen libel case

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

ALBERT REYNOLDS, the former Irish Prime Minister, renewed his legal battle with *The Sunday Times* yesterday, after a libel trial judge awarded him £1 damages in 1996.

He is asking the Court of Appeal to order a new trial over an article published in 1994 after his government coalition collapsed. The story accused the 66-year-old former leader of Fianna Fail of misleading the Dail and lying to Labour colleagues.

Lawyers for *The Sunday Times* argue that newspapers should be able to rely on a defence of qualified privilege if they publish material in good faith about public figures in the context of political matters.

After a 24-day case at the High Court, the jury found that Mr Reynolds had been libelled, but was not entitled to damages. This left the former premier facing huge legal costs because *The Sunday Times* had already paid £5,000 into court to settle the dispute.

He claims that the High Court judge, Mr Justice French, who increased the damages award to £1, was "confusing and unstructured" in his summing-up.

Challenge to curb on media rights in prison

By FRANCES GIBB
LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

A RULING that allows prison authorities to ban journalists from visiting inmates unless they promise not to publish the material obtained is to be challenged in the House of Lords.

In a decision by the law lords announced yesterday, Michael O'Brien and Ian Simms, both serving sentences for murder, were given leave to pursue their appeal. In December 1996, the High Court had ruled that the prison authorities were not entitled to ban such visits unless the journalists in question gave the required undertakings: such a restriction on oral communication was held to restrict the right to free speech.

The Home Secretary appealed against that decision. Last December the Court of Appeal ruled that a convicted prisoner had no right to communicate orally with the media through a journalist, although correspondence was permitted within the rules. The judges held that loss of such rights was part of the sentence. If a prisoner's friend happened to be a journalist, they said, the Prison Service was entitled to require an undertaking.

Jilted businessman ruined lover's shoes

A BUSINESSMAN took revenge on his former lover by daubing red and white paint over 20 pairs of her shoes after she ended their affair.

Magistrates at Chepstow, Monmouthshire, were told yesterday that George Bruton, 60, who had been married twice, was smitten when he saw Jean Hopkins, 53, soon began staying overnight at his home in a village outside Chepstow, where she started keeping much of her wardrobe.

When Mr Bruton asked her

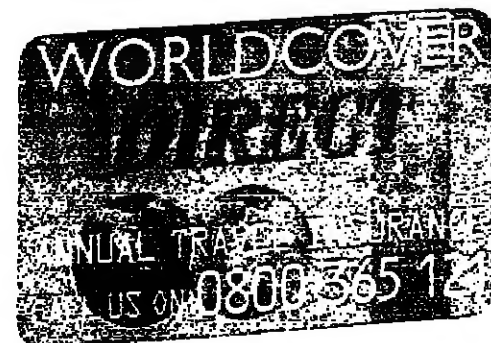
to move in full-time, Mrs Hopkins said she wanted to end their relationship.

Peter O'Donnell, for the prosecution, said: "He couldn't accept this and called her unkind names and told her to get out of the house." When she returned the next morning, she found all 20 pairs of her shoes spattered with red and white paint.

Mr Bruton admitted to police: "I did it in a fit of pique." He admitted criminal damage and was given a conditional discharge and ordered to pay £1,636.

interest
account
can
immediately.
Now.

8 400 TSB



Only Sky gives you
The National Geographic Channel,
The History Channel and
The Discovery Channel
for just £11.99 a month.

Who says private education is expensive.

For £11.99 a month you can get 25 great channels, three of which are dedicated to nothing but documentaries. The History Channel, whose biographies range from Marilyn Monroe to Nelson Mandela, the much awarded National Geographic Channel, and The Discovery Channel whose cameras are filming on location every second of every day. Call now on 0990 97 97 97 or contact your nearest Sky retailer for further details.

SKY

All you need is Sky

Minimum Subscription 12 months plus a one-off connection fee of £12. Subscription prices may vary in accordance with the terms of the Subscription Contract. Offer not open to pubs or clubs or similar establishments or other non domestic customers. Subscribers must be 18 years or over, eligibility subject to status. Programmes and channels subject to alteration. Pay per view events or programmes are not included within this Subscription. Full details of Subscription and other channel packages and prices from Sky Subscribers Services Ltd, PO Box 43, Livingston, West Lothian, EH54 7DD.

Ingham rails against Labour spin-doctors

SIR BERNARD INGHAM launched an attack on the Government's spin-doctors yesterday, accusing them of conspiring to "destroy his reputation."

The former press secretary to Margaret Thatcher spoke out after an appearance before a Commons inquiry in which he criticised Alastair Campbell, Tony Blair's spokesman, as a political appointee who should not be paid by the taxpayer.

Sir Bernard, who was questioned closely about his own "quasi-political" role in the Thatcher Government, said that spin-doctors had leant on Labour members of the Public Administration Select Committee, damaging the integrity of its inquiry into the Government's information and communications service.

"The Labour MPs were clearly on message and they had been given instructions to destroy Ingham to preserve Campbell. I think it is really pathetic."

Sir Bernard was the first person to give evidence to the inquiry, set up after eight

Thatcher's man says taxpayers' cash should not fund Alastair Campbell's political work. Valerie Elliott reports

senior press officers were forced out or left their posts under the new Labour Government. He accused Mr Campbell of showing "blatant favouritism" towards certain newspapers and heaped scorn on his "peculiar contract" whereby he "is a civil servant when he chooses to be, and not when he chooses not to be... He observes the norms and conventions of the Civil Service except when it is convenient to bash the Tories."

"In these circumstances he's not a civil servant but a party political spokesman and should be paid so and not at the expense of the taxpayer."

Labour MPs said that Sir Bernard's role for Mrs Thatcher strayed into the political arena. But he said that, as a civil servant paid by the taxpayer, he had not had a political remit "to bash the

Opposition". He admitted that he had not been "absolutely infallible" but insisted that he had always sought to ensure that the rules were upheld.

Sir Bernard added: "It is very damaging for a Government press secretary to show favouritism in the dissemination of basic information and raw news. If you are in the business of serving the media — which you are in part — you have got to serve them all equally."

Under Labour there were selected briefings "all over the place", which he said must breed a "hotbed of discontent" for there is favouritism that is "blatant".

He said: "It is not assisting the Government to behave in this way. I believe it's damaging the Government's interests. And if the Tories had any wit they should campaign to

have him [Mr Campbell] paid by the party and keep him there as long as possible."

When the committee chairman, the Labour MP Rhodri Morgan, suggested that Sir Bernard was the "original professor of rotational medicine", he snapped: "That is not a compliment."

Last night Peter Bradley, Labour MP for The Wrekin and a member of the committee, denied that any Labour spin-doctor, minister, whip or any other government or party aide had approached him about yesterday's hearing. "Not for the first time Sir Bernard is making unfounded allegations and if anybody destroyed Sir Bernard's reputation it was none other than Sir Bernard himself. He seemed quite unable to distinguish between fact and fiction or to maintain a consistent line about his own controversial record."

"It is another example of Conservatives — if he allows to be called a Conservative — seeking to assassinate personalities when they can't attack policies."



Brown is right to reaffirm the golden rule

GORDON BROWN was yesterday being the Iron, rather than the Cuddly, Chancellor-emphasising the need for "tough rules" on public spending. In six weeks when he announces the outcome of the comprehensive spending review, he will sound different, hoping to be cheered by Labour MPs as well as by the financial markets. Mr Brown should be able to be populist as well as prudent.

You can tell that the Liberal Democrats/Liberals have been nowhere near the Treasury for more than 80 years, otherwise they would not be talking about "a war chest of surplus cash". Of course, Mr Brown is being cautious, and may be over-cautious on some revenue assumptions. But he would be irresponsible to say anything else now. All previous Chancellors have stressed discipline at this stage of spending negotiations. They want to lower expectations and resist demands from spending departments and public sector unions. This is even more true when the economy has been very strong and public finances are so healthy. That is when temptations to relax are greatest.

Just look back a decade. I remember a certain John Major, then Chief Secretary, talking in March 1988 about an "economic miracle". That attitude led to decisions to raise spending over the following five years — by more than 16 per cent in real terms even after ignoring the direct impact of the recession. This boosted the Government's share of national income from 38 to more than 43 per cent, leading to the painful readjustment of the mid-1990s with higher taxes and spending squeezes.

Mr Brown knows how quickly a surplus can turn into a deficit. That is why he was right yesterday to reaffirm the golden rule whereby the current budget is balanced over the course of the economic cycle and the Government borrows only to invest. He has now added the further constraint that the Government will aim for current surpluses every year for the rest of this Parliament.

In practice, these goals

leave him with a good deal of room for manoeuvre. As always, the clues lie in the Treasury's Red Book published with the March Budget. On the assumption of economic growth of 2 per cent or so over the next three years, and varying assumptions about the expansion of spending, the public finances will continue to improve. Even if spending grows by 2½ per cent a year in real terms over this period, probably more than the Treasury wants, there were still be a current surplus. And, after taking account of investment, total borrowing will be well within the Maastricht guidelines for monetary union, while the share of public sector debt in the economy will continue to fall, in line with Mr Brown's "prudent and sensible level".

There are risks if the economic slowdown turns into a recession and if the pick-up in private sector pay bills fuels higher public sector demands.

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

— which the Treasury is determined to resist. But after the tight squeeze on administrative costs of recent years, can further restraint be sustained without endangering the provision of core services?

It is an absolutely safe prediction that Mr Brown will announce an increase in public spending of several billion pounds over the next three years. But that is just for the headlines: what counts is what happens to the underlying growth of spending. Frank Dobson can be counted upon to make the most of whatever he receives, and he will need getting on for £2 billion a year extra merely to maintain the recent rate of growth in NHS spending, and to hold down hospital waiting lists. The key test of the review will be whether Mr Brown has been able to reallocate the pattern of spending, as well as "tough". That will be the heart of the Whitehall arguments of the next few weeks.

PETER RIDDELL

Mowlam in Tory talks

MO MOWLAM, the Northern Ireland Secretary, has become the first Cabinet minister to address a private meeting of the Shadow Cabinet (Andrew Pierce writes).

She held an hour of talks chaired by William Hague, the Tory leader, yesterday. Dr Mowlam initiated the meeting to brief the Shadow Cabinet Northern Ireland sub-committee on the details of the

forthcoming Bill over the release of prisoners as part of the Good Friday agreement.

Cabinet ministers have always briefed their opposite numbers, on privy counsel terms, on a one-to-one basis. But until yesterday no Cabinet minister, Labour or Tory, has sat in the Shadow Cabinet office and fielded questions and answers with the Leader of the Opposition in the chair.



FRENCH GERMAN SPANISH

The Open University's Centre for Modern Languages offers courses to help you enhance your knowledge of the language and culture of the French, German or Spanish speaking world. All you need is a basic knowledge of the language you want to study.

OUI SUPPORTED OPEN LEARNING

The Open University's proven method of teaching allows you the freedom to study in your own home, in your own time. We supply specially created course books and audio-visual materials — together with the support of a personal tutor.

STUDY PACKS

The courses are also available as packs, enabling you to study on your own without registering as a student.

Please complete the coupon or ring the OU hotline today for a brochure giving complete course details.

Complete and send this coupon to: ML98C
The Open University, PO Box 625 Milton Keynes MK7 6AA.
☐ Please send me details of your language courses.
☐ Tick here if you have contacted the OU in the past.

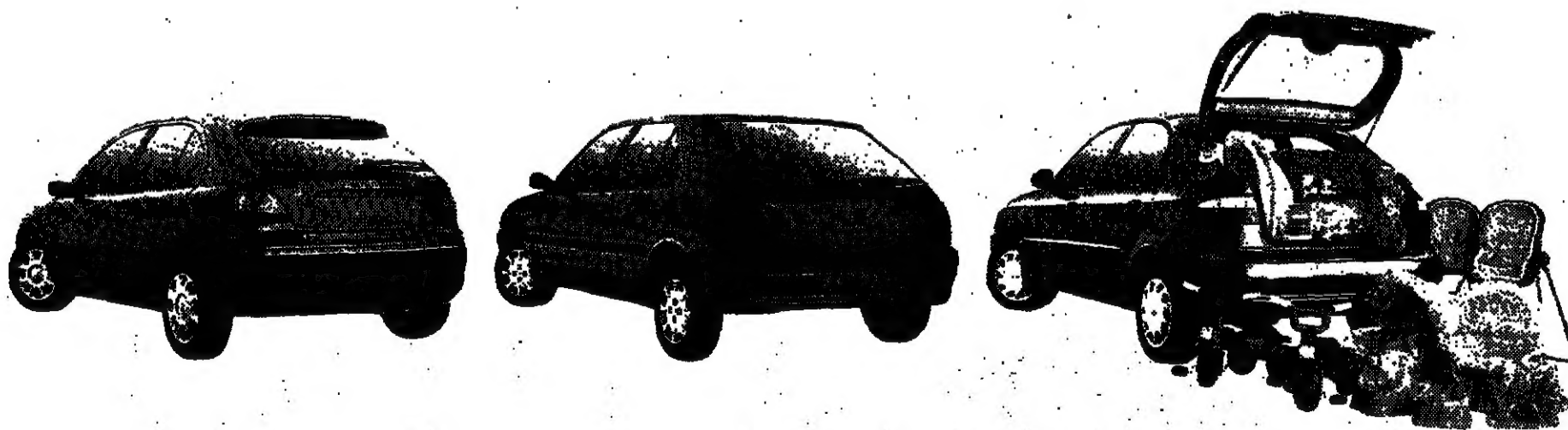
Title _____ Initials _____ Surname _____
Address _____
Postcode _____
Tel _____ Date of Birth ____/____/19____

OU hotline (24 hours) 0870 900 0302
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OPENS MINDS, OPENS DOORS



DAEWOO

WHICH FAMILY CAR CAN SAVE YOU £2000 IN UNEXPECTED COSTS?



Simple really. The Daewoo comes with the following as standard:

- 1) 3 year/60,000 mile free servicing including parts, labour and courtesy car.
- 2) 3 year/60,000 mile comprehensive warranty.
- 3) 3 year Daewoo Total AA cover.
- 4) Delivery, number plates and 12 month's road tax.

And with ABS and air conditioning as standard on the Lanos 1.6SX (featured) you could save £2,145 over three years compared to equivalently specified competitors.

Which could buy you a lot of baby gear. The Lanos 1.6 SX 5 door costs £11,220. The Lanos range starts from £8,820.

And on orders placed by 30 June 1998, private retail customers can also benefit from one of three extra offers including one year's free comprehensive insurance (subject to status). Prices correct at 1 May 1998.

For more information call 0800 666 222.

A car company that saves you £2,000?
That'll be the Daewoo.

0870 900 0302

Everyone knows that there's a lot of money to be made on the stock market. (Over the last 5 years an investment in Britain's top companies would have more than doubled your money.)

The problem is, everyone also knows that putting their hard-earned savings on the stock market can be risky.

Not any more. The Advanced Savings Account from b² has arrived.

By using a portion of your savings to buy 'Stockmarket Protection' you guarantee that, even if the stock market is down at the end of your chosen period, every penny you put in will be there to take out. (And in case you're wondering, this guarantee is provided by Barclays Bank.)

Of course, in all probability the stock market will have risen. In which case, all the gains will be yours, and they can be tax-free.

You'll also receive regular income payments, and these can be tax-free too.

Better still, b² will make the whole process painless. There'll be no hassle, no hidden charges and no jargon.

You can join with just £500, or be a regular saver for as little as £50 a month. And you can get at your savings whenever you want.

Our lines are open 8am -10pm, seven days a week.

The way b² sees it, using the stock market to make your savings grow should be safe, easy and uncomplicated. So call us now for an information pack.

The Advanced Savings Account from b².



0800 62 62 62

For a pack call us, or send coupon to b², Freepost SEA4934, Kingston-Upon-Thames, KT2 6BR.

NAME _____
 ADDRESS _____
 POSTCODE _____ TELEPHONE _____

b² limited is an Appointed Representative of Barclays Funds Limited (BFL) and only offers their unit trusts: Stockmarket Protection from Barclays Bank plc (BFL and Barclays Bank regulated by IMRO and the Personal Investment Authority). You cannot rely on past performance to predict how your investment will perform in the future. Future performance will be reduced because of the changed basis of taxation introduced by the 1997 Finance Act. The price of units and the income they pay can go down as well as up. Stock market growth is based upon FTSE Top 100. Source: BGI and Datastream. Comparisons taken across five years to 1 April 1998. Money used for protection will not grow. At least 65% of money put in guaranteed on early withdrawal. Current tax treatment of PEPs is assumed. Calls are recorded.

The Stock Market. Now available with a guarantee

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3 1998
 own is right
 reaffirm
 golden rule

RIDDELL
ON POLITICS

m in Tory talks

The Open
University

ENCH
RMAN
NISH

ATED OPEN LEARNING

BUY PACKS

0570 900 0302

Widow told me to kill Gucci, Sicilian tells trial

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE three-week-old trial for murder of the former wife of Maurizio Gucci, the fashion empire heiress, began yesterday when one of the alleged hitmen accused her of ordering the killing.

Patrizia Reggiani, 50, who appeared in court for the first time since the trial began, had a coughing fit and had to be taken from the courtroom for medical treatment. Orazio Cicala, 59, a Sicilian who allegedly arranged the murder as well as driving the getaway car, told the courtroom in Milan that he had met Signora Reggiani several times before the murder in March 1995, "and she persuaded me into carrying out the job".

He admitted that he had been the getaway driver, but in a 20-minute outburst he said that the shooting had been carried out not by Benedetto Cernulo, 36, the other accused hitman, but by a third gunman whom he refused to name. "I am afraid to do so. He is a free man and I have a wife and family".

Signor Gucci, 46, was gunned down outside his office in a Milan street. He was shot three times in the back and shoulders, and finished off with a bullet to the head as he

lay on the office steps. Police at first suspected a Mafia killing, but then said the murder had been a "botched job". Signora Reggiani, who admits she "wanted Maurizio dead" after their 12-year marriage ended in divorce, is accused of plotting to kill him with Pina Auremmia, 52, her Naples-based clairvoyant and confidante, who once ran Gucci boutiques. Signora Auremmia allegedly enlisted Ivano Saviano, a hotel doorman, and he in turn allegedly recruited the two hitmen.



Reggiani: admits she wanted Maurizio dead

The trial for what some Italian newspapers have called the "Crime of the Century" was adjourned after only five minutes when it began on May 11, because of a lawyers' strike. To the bafflement of some foreign journalists Signora Reggiani exercised her right not to appear at this and subsequent hearings, which became bogged down in procedural wrangling.

Yesterday Signor Cicala said the fatal shots had been fired by an unnamed "thug". He confirmed that Signor Saviano and Signora Auremmia had approached him to set up the crime and find a gunman, adding that Signora Reggiani had been involved in the planning. Signora Reggiani played with a plastic rosary round her wrist before succumbing to violent coughing. She claims that the others carried out her desire to see Signor Gucci dead without consulting her. Signora Auremmia says Signora Reggiani arranged the killing and offered her £1 million to take the blame.

Signora Reggiani, dubbed "the Black Widow" by the Italian media, had enjoyed a lifestyle of yachts, private planes and parties, and was much admired for her "Elizabeth Taylor" looks. But the



Orazio Cicala in the courtroom cage at the Gucci trial in Milan yesterday, where he refused to name the hitman

couple separated in 1984 and were later divorced. She described the settlement as "a plate of lentils" in the light of the £92 million that her ex-husband reportedly received when he sold his 50 per cent stake in Gucci to Investcorp, an Arab-owned firm. She was angered when Gucci halved her annual alimony payments to £560,000, and was further

incensed when he announced plans to marry Paola Franchi, a designer who had moved into the Gucci mansion.

The Gucci case has gripped Italy as a turbulent saga of high fashion, dynastic squabbling, jet-set sexual betrayal and sordid underworld intrigue. But most descendants of Guccio Gucci — a Florence leather-maker who founded

his business at the turn of the century and died in 1953 — have long since cut all links with the firm. Patrizia, the daughter of a laundress, climbed the social ladder by becoming the mistress of a Milan businessman, and then set out to marry Signor Gucci. But, according to the prosecution, she turned to murder when the dream went sour.

She told *Corriere della Sera* from jail that she "was, am and will always be in love with Maurizio... but he was not the man I wanted him to be". She claimed he was impotent, and had shown cruel indifference to her and their children, Alessandra, aged 21, and Allegra, 17.

Focus, pages 23-25

Yeltsin enlists bankers' support

FROM ROBIN LODGE IN MOSCOW

PRESIDENT YELTSIN said yesterday that he would present a programme to parliament at the end of the month on measures to overcome Russia's economic crisis, drawing on the expertise of the country's leading industrialists and financiers.

Sergei Yastrzhembsky, the presidential spokesman, gave no details of the plan other than that it concerned long-term measures to revive industry, improvements to the tax system and tariffs on electricity, gas and the railways.

He was speaking after Mr Yeltsin met ten of the country's senior bankers and business tycoons to enlist their support for the Government's economic policies. This follows last week's decision to raise interest rates to 150 per cent to support the ruble, in the wake of sharp falls on the Russian stock market. Shares recovered briefly, but began falling again this week, and yesterday, Sergei Kiriyenko, the Prime Minister, announced austerity measures to reduce expenditure and increase budget revenues.

But economists agree that Russia still needs outside support to regain investor confidence. They suggest that a stabilisation fund similar to that granted to Poland in 1991 would be the best option.

Serbs forces intensify attacks on Albanians

AS REFUGEES streamed into northern Albania yesterday, Western powers appeared to be waiting up to the fact that the war in Kosovo has intensified dramatically in the past few days.

Albanian sources reported death tolls from the western Drenica region varying between around 20 and 36, and Western diplomats in Pristina admitted they had seriously underestimated the extent of the latest security clampdown by Serb police and paramilitary forces. The Serbs said yesterday another of their policemen had been killed, bringing their casualty list to at least three dead in the last four days.

One official spoke of the need to bring forward Nato troop deployment in the area and suggested the alliance might soon stage overflights of the border region as a warning to the Serbs.

Another source said Western embassies were on the point of filing complaints to Belgrade of grave breaches of the Geneva conventions in the Decanaleara, from where all



Map of Kosovo showing the locations of Drenica, Pristina, and Tropoja.

aid agencies and the media have been barred for almost two weeks.

Despite the West's new-found concern over Kosovo, the Serbs for the moment seem intent on continuing their operations, which they say are designed to "eradicate" cells of the Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA). The Serbs have opened a second front from a factory their forces have occupied at Glogovac in central Drenica, scene of the massacres in March that brought the Kosovo struggle to worldwide attention.

The Serb strategy seems to mirror policies long suggested by the far-right Radical Party, which is in ruling coalition

Western nations are waking up to spreading war in Kosovo, writes Tom Walker

with President Milosevic's Socialists in the Belgrade Government. Vojislav Seselj, the radicals' leader and Deputy Prime Minister, is known to favour clearing Albanians from all strategic areas of Kosovo, including the border and along many main roads.

With Decane out of phone contact for three days, details of the fighting there have been sporadic, with Albanian newspapers in Pristina relying on their correspondents making highly dangerous journeys of around 20 miles by foot. The Yugoslav Army is said to have intensified its shelling of border villages, from where more than 1,500 refugees have fled, most of them into the northern Albanian town of Tropoja.

The most alarming reports yesterday came from Drenica, where Albanian sources said villagers had been murdered by Serb police. Murat Mustiu, chairman of the human rights council in Srbica, said he saw several men being shot in the village of Pollek. An Albanian media source said many of the victims had been mutilated. Mr Mustiu said weapons had been planted near the bodies of the Albanians. His group also claimed the police were mining roads in an effort to cut the KLA supply lines linking Drenica and Decane, known as the Ho Chi Minh Trail of the Balkans.

Refugee supplies set up

BY JAMES PETTIFER

THE United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, UNHCR, is setting up emergency supply lines to help mostly women and old people fleeing from Serb "ethnic cleansing" in Kosovo. A spokesman in UNHCR headquarters in Geneva yesterday said an estimated 2,500 people had crossed the border in the last 36 hours. "We are moving 30 or 40 tons of supplies to Tropoja today, mostly blankets and basic food. But shelter is the priority," he said.

Andrew Harper, a UNHCR official, has moved to the north to co-ordinate the relief operation. UNHCR policy is to try to keep the refugees with families, as many are moving to relatives over the border in Tropoja and elsewhere in north-east Albania. But the region is very poor, even by Albanian standards. The UNHCR have plans for much larger refugee movements into Macedonia and Montenegro if full scale war develops.

Villagers take on art world to reclaim stolen treasure

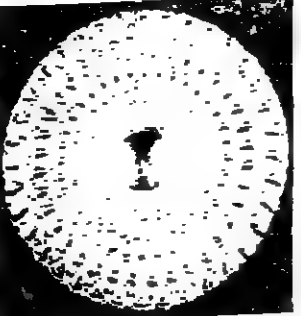
BY RICHARD OWEN

THE mayor of a Sicilian village yesterday said villagers were close to victory in legal proceedings to regain a superb ancient Greek ceremonial gold plate valued at £1.5 million and now owned by an American multimillionaire.

The villagers, whose campaign is backed by the Italian Government, claim the gold plate was stolen and then exported illegally.

The court battle over the treasure — which has taken 16 years to track down — has alarmed high-powered American museums and art dealers since it throws the spotlight on the highly lucrative illegal trade in antiquities, much of it controlled by the Mafia.

The beautifully worked decorated ceremonial plate, or dish, disappeared in 1980 shortly after it was unearthed during excavations at Monte-reparato, near the village of Caltavuturo, in the mountains



The plate: tracked down after 16 years

between Palermo and Cefalù. Archaeologists said the plate, or "phia", which originally meant a shallow flat container rather than a medicine bottle, had almost certainly been used for libations in honour of Greek gods in a sanctuary or temple.

Scholars say it may have been made to celebrate the exploits of Pyrrhus, King of Epirus (319BC-272BC). The plate is in the collection of Michael Steinhardt, an Amer-

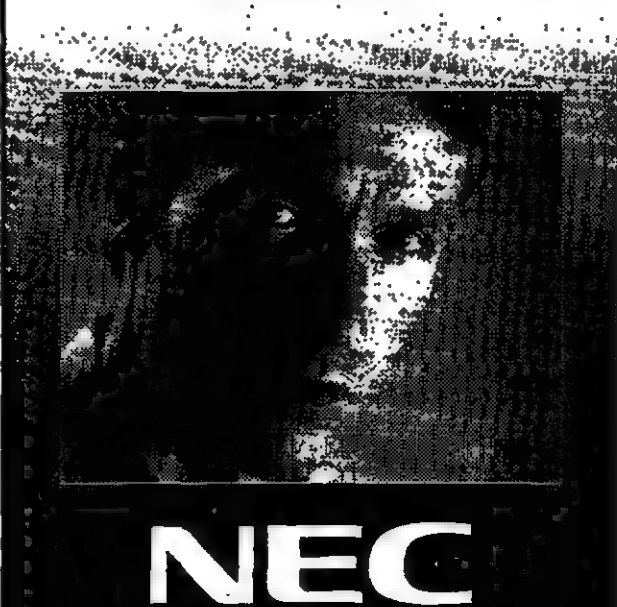
ican collector, who says he bought it in good faith from a Swiss dealer in Zurich for \$1.2 million (£736,000) after having it authenticated by experts from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York.

Italian police who tracked the plate's path from Sicily to New York said it had been initially sold to a Sicilian dealer for £10,000 and then to a Zurich dealer for £40,000 before being resold to Mr Steinhardt.

"This is a tale of David and Goliath," said *Il Messaggero*, noting that although stolen Italian artefacts often ended up in the hands of collectors or museums, it was rare for them to be recovered. "An obscure village has taken on the mighty".

Domenico Giannopolo, Mayor of Caltavuturo, said villagers had been outraged to learn that the plate had ended up "in the glass display case of a multi-millionaire in his Fifth Avenue penthouse".

HAVE YOU HEARD WHAT THEY'RE SAYING ABOUT NEC DIRECT?



NEC Direct has stormed the direct channel with a fleet of business desktop and notebook PCs...

PC Direct May '98

The Direction (SE-233T) is a well-made, affordable desktop that should provide most small business buyers and indeed many home users with everything they need.

Computer Buyer, May '98

The Direction (SE-233T) is a great machine that is easy to use and upgrade in the future, should you want to. It's priced at a level to suit almost every pocket, and many manufacturers will have trouble competing.

Computer Active Magazine, 23rd April '98

NEC Direction SE-233T

...impressive in terms of build quality...

PC Pro magazine, May '98

NEC Direction SP-266L

...high benchmark figures with good build quality at a competitive price...

PC Magazine, May '98

NEC Direction SP-266L

Internally, the layout is exemplary...allowing unhindered access to upgradeable components.

PC Pro magazine, May '98

NEC DIRECTION SP-300L NEC DIRECTION SM-266L

- Intel Pentium® II Processor 300MHz
- 32MB SDRAM
- 512KB Internal Cache
- 5.7GB EIDE Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- 14-32x CD-ROM Drive
- ATI Xpert XL AGP Graphics Accelerator with 4MB EDO RAM Video Memory
- 17" NEC C700 Colour Monitor (0.28 dot pitch; 16.0" viewable)
- Ensoniq PCI Sound Card (Sound Blaster® Pro compatible)
- Labtec LS420 Speakers, Subwoofer & Microphone
- Mini Tower Chassis (Desktop Option)
- Microsoft Windows 95, Microsoft® Office 97
- Small Business Edition (MS Word 97, MS Excel 97, MS Publisher 97, MS Outlook 97)
- Adobe Acrobat Reader, McAfee VirusScan
- 12 MONTHS NEXT BUSINESS DAY ON-SITE WARRANTY

£999 (£1,207.90 including VAT) £899 (£1,090.40 including VAT)

NEC PCs are available from £599

NEC DIRECT

RING NEC DIRECT ON 0870 0106322

NEC is a registered trademark of NEC Corporation. NEC Direct, the NEC Direct logo and Direction are trademarks of NEC Corporation. The Intel Inside logo and Pentium® are registered trademarks and MMX™ is a trademark of Intel Corporation. All other trademarks acknowledged. Delivery is charged at £10 (VAT included) per PC. Prices listed are current at time of going to press. All prices and specifications are subject to change without notice or obligation. The photograph product may not always match the specifications in this document. All sales are subject to NEC Computer Systems standard terms and conditions of sale, which are available on request. NEC Computer Systems, Green Lane, Heywood, Lancashire OL10 2JF. Registered in England No. 3479964. Registered Office: Baywick House, Windsor Road, Metherden, Bortholth, Yorkshire YO6 6JF.

US envoy's departure leaves void in Dublin

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

THE White House admitted last night that the US Embassy in Ireland might remain without an Ambassador for some time after the departure of Jean Kennedy Smith next month, as the battle for her replacement continues.

President Clinton is taking a personal interest in the new appointment, but by delaying a decision he faces the prospect, with the necessity for security checks, that his nominee might not be confirmed by Congress before the October recess and the mid-term November elections.

A White House official said: "People are aware that Dublin could be vacant for a while. It's regrettable but, as in other parts of the world where this is a frequent occurrence, we rely on our professional diplomatic staff."

The list of prospective candidates remains long and fraught with problems for a President who views every foreign policy decision in terms of his domestic audience. Mike Sullivan, a former

Governor of Wyoming who proved an asset to Mr Clinton when he was campaigning for the West in 1992, has long been on the list of those requiring a presidential favour.

His name, however, was dismissed by *The Irish Voice*, the powerful New York paper, which described Mr Sullivan as "a name completely un-



Kennedy Smith: blamed for rift over Ulster

known in Irish-American circles, with no street credibility whatever with Irish Americans."

The name most widely touted in the Irish-American strongholds of Boston and New York is Bruce Morrison, a former Democratic congressman and chairman of the federal housing finance board. He masterminded legislation to secure tens of thousands of green cards for Irish immigrants and was one of those who helped to bring about an IRA ceasefire in 1994.

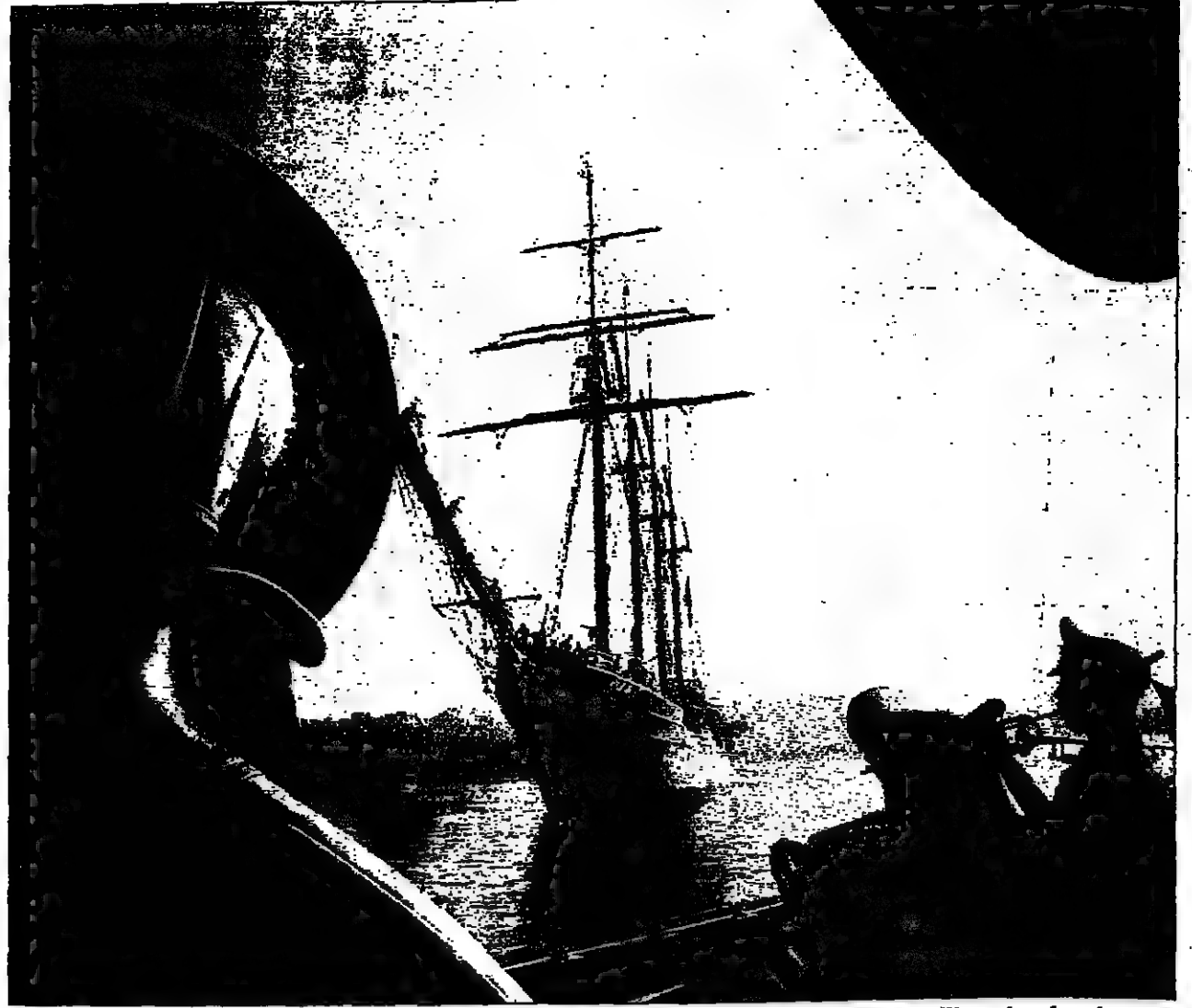
His links with Sinn Féin, however, are not viewed as the best credentials to send a message of unity during the transition to peace in Ulster. Mr Morrison has declared a "great deal of interest in the position".

He is not alone. Paul Quinn, a Washington lawyer and lobbyist who has the partial support of the Kennedy clan — but not the most important imprimatur of Senator Edward Kennedy — had already lined up the support of

three dozen members of the House and Senate before Ms Kennedy Smith made public in March her decision to leave.

Since then Mr Quinn's name has receded, as has that of Richard Riley, the Education Secretary, who is deemed to have the best political credentials for the job. Mr Riley, however, is seen as too important to the President's cabinet and his confirmation hearings could prove damaging at a time when Mr Clinton is engaged in a battle with Congress over education.

The President is expected to seek a candidate less controversial than Ms Kennedy Smith. Appointed in 1993, she has already outstayed the usual four-year term as ambassador. The sister of John F. Kennedy, she was accused of creating a rift between the London and Dublin embassies over Northern Ireland policy and supported a visa for Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin President, over British objections and before the IRA declared its 1994 ceasefire.



A Spanish naval training ship, the *Juan Sebastián de Elcano*, is greeted by a Cuban military band as she dropped anchor in Havana yesterday — her first visit to Cuba since President Castro gained power in 1959.

WORLD IN BRIEF

World Cup plea to striking pilots

Paris: World Cup organisers, French government ministers and airline officials urged Air France pilots to call off a strike yesterday as the company's aircraft were grounded for a second day, just one week before the start of the tournament (Ben Macintyre writes).

Michel Platini, the former footballer and co-president of the World Cup organising committee, said: "It is the image of France that is at stake, not just that of an airline company." Jean-Claude Gaysot, the Transport Minister, told parliament: "France, the company and the World Cup must not be held hostage." The strike is in protest at a plan to cut pilots' salaries to fund an expansion programme. Jean-Cyril Spinetta, chairman of Air France, suggested a truce until after the World Cup.

Sydney police chief 'to stay'

Sydney: The British former police chief who took up Australia's toughest anti-corruption job has flatly denied that he was quitting the job (Roger Maynard writes). "I'm here to stay," declared Peter Ryan, refuting speculation that he was to resign as Commissioner of New South Wales to return to London as chief of the Metropolitan Police. Speculation that Mr Ryan, the former Chief Constable of Norfolk, was keen to leave arose after it was disclosed that he is to meet Jack Straw, the Home Secretary, next month. His position has been undermined by local politicians and the media.

Vatican appoints chief guard



Rome: The Pope has named Colonel Pius Segmüller of the Swiss Army, left, to command the Vatican Guard. Last month the previous commander, Alois Estermann, was shot dead along with his wife by a disgruntled young guardsman hours after he was named head of the tiny papal army. The guardsman then killed himself. The Vatican said Colonel Segmüller, 46, has degrees from the University of Zurich, the Zurich Military Academy and the General Staff academy. (AP)

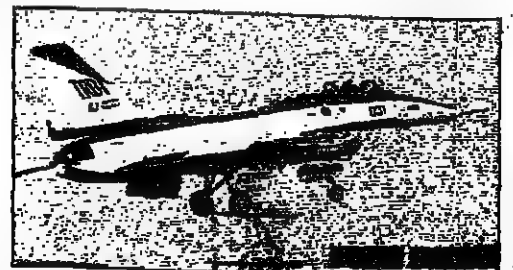
UN fears new Angola war

Harare: Fears of a resumption of the Angolan civil war were raised by the outgoing commander of the United Nations military observer mission in the country (Jan Rath writes). Major-General Philip Sibanda of the Zimbabwe Army, who has just ended his three-year command, said there was "disturbing evidence" of a military build-up. Although he would not say who was culpable, he repeatedly referred to violations of the 1995 UN peace agreement by Jonas Savimbi's Unita movement.

DNA clue to royal imposter

Vienna: Two lockets left by Arch-Duchess Maria-Theresa, Queen of Hungary and Bohemia, when she died in 1780 have proved the man who claimed to be the son of her daughter Marie-Antoinette and King Louis XVI of France to be an imposter (Nigel Glass writes). University analysts found that DNA from the hair of two of Marie-Antoinette's sisters, contained in the lockets, did not match that of Karl Wilhelm Naundorff, who is buried under the royal family name.

Japan defence plan wobbles



Tokyo: Japan's next-generation F-2 fighter, above, shakes at high speed, it was claimed yesterday. The \$7.2 billion (£4.4 billion) warplane's wings vibrate so much that manoeuvring is difficult when it is armed with air-to-sea missiles and flying at 370 mph. Jiji Press news agency quoted sources as saying Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, the main contractor which developed the aircraft's wings, declined to comment. (AFP)

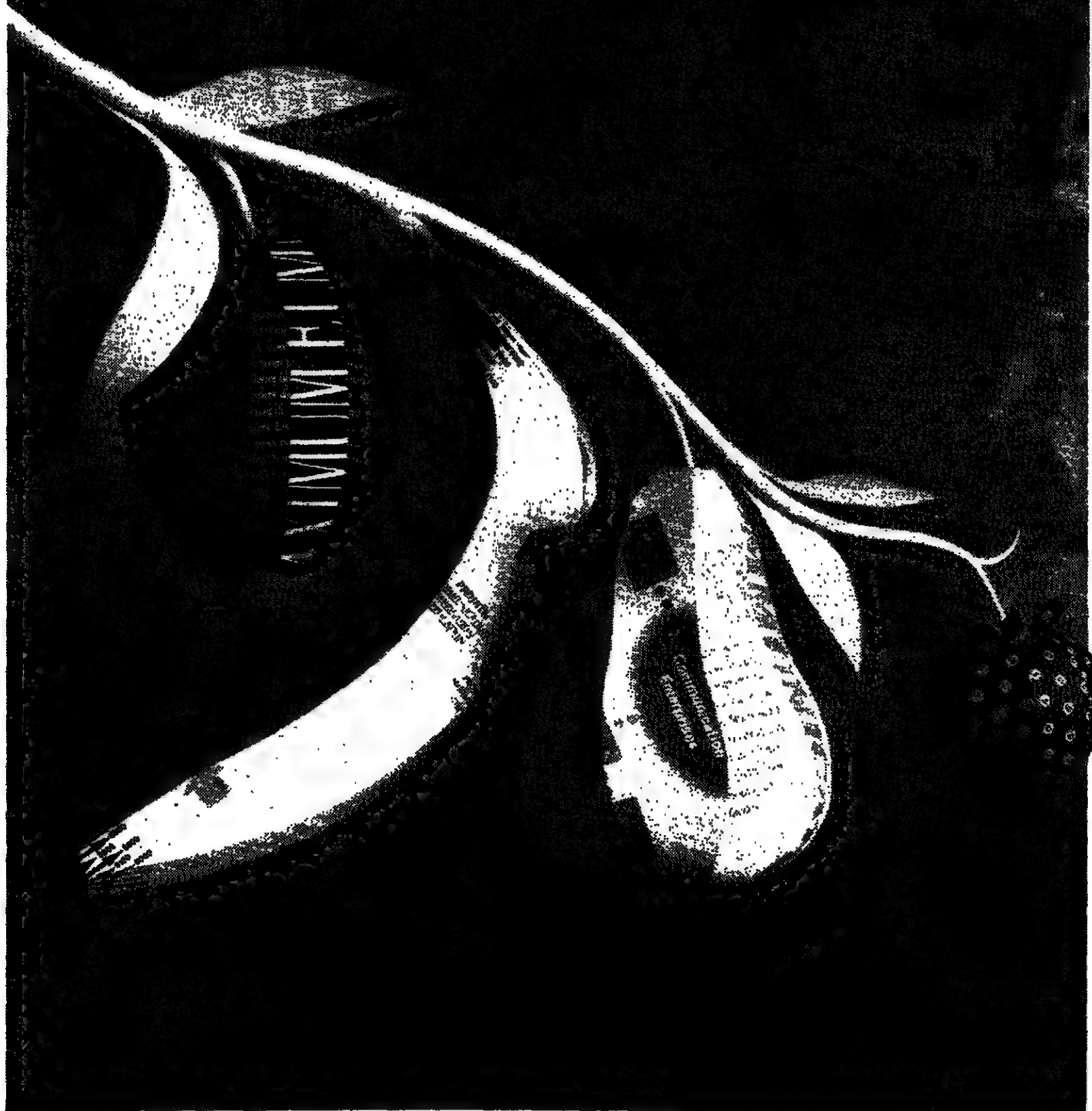
Harare campus crackdown

Harare: The University of Zimbabwe was closed indefinitely as the authorities began a crackdown on students protesting over alleged government corruption and demanding the removal of President Mugabe (Jan Rath writes). Harare Polytechnic, the country's largest technical college, was also closed. Violence erupted on Monday when some students ran riot in the city centre. The rioting continued overnight at the campus.

Family poisoned by dying dog

Hong Kong: A mother and her two daughters were in critical condition in hospital after apparently giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation to their dog after it passed out while being given an anti-tick shampoo. Vets said the shampoo contained a highly-toxic chemical, amitraz, which is normally used to rid farm animals of ticks, or blood-sucking parasites. The women were found unconscious. The dog died. (Reuters)

With the new HP LaserJet 3100 you can print, fax, copy and scan. Naturally.



Now you can combine all your essential business machines naturally in a compact, integrated desktop unit — the HP LaserJet 3100 Printer • Fax • Copier • Scanner. As well as printing superb-looking, laser-quality documents, it also handles your business faxes, automatically collates your copies, and scans documents and images

to your PC — all without compromising on speed. Easy to set up, simple to operate, it can also perform more than one function at a time for increased productivity. And naturally it offers the reliability and durability you'd expect from the world's leader in laser printing. All these business benefits for just £599.



hp HEWLETT • PACKARD

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE RANGE OF HP PRODUCTS AND SUPPLIES, CALL 0800 474747 OR VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT <http://www.hp3100.hp.com>

Despair descends on quake wilderness



Christopher Thomas, among the first journalists to fly into Kol, sees the grim choices facing aid workers in a region hit by fresh disaster

FOR three days Kol village awaited help after the week-end earthquake. It came yesterday, meagrely and quickly — an almost heartless dash in and out by helicopter to assess its needs. Kol needs everything. Nothing is left. A quarter of its people are dead. The rest are homeless and hungry.

Our United Nations helicopter knocked down some makeshift shelters with the downdraught as it landed and scattered such meagre belongings as people have left. Men surged forward in the expectation of unloading food, blankets, medicines and tents, but this was only a reconnaissance flight and supplies will not arrive until today. We carried only promises. They seemed angry.

Gilbert Greenall, a British doctor with the UN disaster assessment and co-ordination team — a specialist in accident and emergency medicine — was besieged by men carrying their wounded to him, laying them on the ground for his dreadful injuries to be inspected. He moved into the brick-built village meeting hall, the one structure that survived the tremor, receiving a flow of wounded and making instant decisions about who would be flown to hospital. There was pandemonium. Men with sticks lashed the crowds, creating space for cursory, almost momentary medical examinations. We could carry only three stretchers cases. More wounded will be taken out today. "You need the wisdom of Solomon to do this job," Dr Greenall said.

Shomila, a six-year-old girl, came in with infected facial wounds and possibly two broken legs. Her father begged for her to be taken on the helicopter. But she would have to wait another day. "Heartless as it is, let me look at the next one," Dr Greenall said. The girl was shifted to one side. The stench of illness rose from the room. A man was brought in piggyback and placed gently on the concrete floor. "Serious," the doctor decided, and the man was taken on board.

A woman had to be examined gingerly for fear of upsetting local sentiment: the men covered her face with a blanket to save her dignity, and she thus could not see the doctor's instructions to wiggle her toes and fingers. "This is very difficult without an interpreter," he said. "I am looking for paralysis."

Patient after patient had chronic ailments unrelated to the quake. "That boy has a bone infection and he will lose his leg eventually," Dr Greenall said. "There is a lot of impetigo and nowhere to wash my hands. It is extremely infectious." Another patient had broken ribs. "He can wait," there was a woman with a suspected broken femur. "Put her on board." We took a chronically sick child and her father.

We were in and out in less than an hour, leaving behind 300 people who have suffered 20 years of war, two quakes in three months, and have just emerged from one of the hardest winter climates on earth. They were weak and exhausted anyway: now they have no means to recover.

They were weak and exhausted anyway: now they have no means to recover

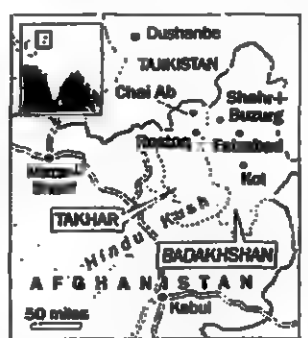


A father waits for help outside as his family shelters in a makeshift tent in Shurak village yesterday and below, Kol village, which was flattened in the earthquake

tered C130 transporter, which has been ferrying emergency supplies from Pakistan, was revving to take off. Piles of water containers, blankets and other supplies were being shifted into a decrepit-looking helicopter rented by the UN from Tajikistan. Aid workers were talking by satellite telephone to their head offices around the world.

Fuel is desperately needed. UN helicopters must fly 90 minutes to Dushanbe, the Tajikistan capital, to refuel, leaving only 80 minutes' flying time once they return to Faizabad. It is impossible to reach the quake zone by any other means — except by donkeys and horses, which would take five days — because every road has been blocked by

landslides or destroyed. About 600,000 people live in the worst-affected areas, and the toll of at least 3,000 dead would have been higher had the quake struck at night when everybody is indoors. Most of the dead and wounded are women and children,



because they were inside when their houses collapsed. By the time the men ran back to the village from the fields there was nothing to be done but bury the 74 dead and contemplate another catastrophe.

They did so under an open sky, their goats tethered about them. Here and there a child, sitting alone, cried: orphans, probably. Poverty radiates from the place: it is in the ragged clothes, the flimsy footwear laughably inadequate for the climate or the terrain, which is among the most majestic scenery on earth, the hills lately covered with a bare green from rain. Mountains rise high enough to catch snow, and from the helicopter an occasional stream glints. A clutch

of huts is always to be found next to them, for this is a parched country. It is medieval in its backwardness — no electricity, communications, schools or doctors, save for those in Faizabad. The only building material is mud.

Some of the villagers are startlingly white-skinned and even blue-eyed — they carry the blood of Genghis Khan's hordes. Almost everybody looks sick. All are filthy and dispirited. They pull you by the arm to a pile of dried mud that used to be a home. They point to their children and their well-covered wife in imploring gestures, their famous Afghan pride gone, their almost notorious independence shattered by the welcome humiliation of outside help.



Aid workers find more flattened villages

Faizabad: The zone of devastation left by the Afghanistan earthquake may be 40 per cent larger than previously thought, aid workers said yesterday.

Samantha Savant, of the Geneva-based International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) said the tremor appeared to have hit a wider area than at first feared and

triggered many landslides in the remote and mountainous northeast.

Ms Savant said at Faizabad, hub of the international relief operation, that the assessment was based on relief flights over the area which found more destroyed villages in the northeast and south. The ICRC said it had found 1,000 people injured in

the disaster but had yet to find any survivors trapped in the rubble of houses.

The United Nations meanwhile issued an urgent appeal for helicopters and fuel. The world body said that distribution of food and shelter equipment was being held up because the three helicopters in use were ferrying the injured from remote villages

to medical centres. "The problem at the moment is not supplies. It's transport. Without additional helicopters we can't hope to help these people," Alfredo Witschi-Cestari, the UN Co-ordinator for Afghanistan, said. "We would be particularly grateful if neighbouring countries could come forward and help." (Reuters)

WORLD IN BRIEF

World Cup plea striking pilots

... greeted by a Cuban military band as the President Castro gained power in 1959.

ey police chief to stay

... an appoints chief...

fears new Angola war

... an defence plan would

rare campus crackdown

... nily poisoned by dying

21st Century Box

When you invest in a PC for the Millennium, you expect the best. You expect your PC to do the job you want, when you want to do it. Invest in a custom-built Dantum PC with Intel® Pentium® Processors with MMX™ technology and it will live up to all your expectations. We have the awards to prove it.

Not only are Dan Technology's products streets ahead, with a series of awards for product excellence, but we offer you first-class technical support and an enviable after-sales service. Our Quality Assurance system ensures you a premier service from the moment you request a brochure.

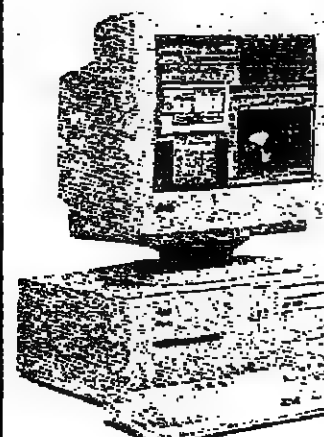
We are behind you every step of the way offering solutions to all of your IT needs. So if you need to get the job done and you aren't prepared to settle for anything but the best, pick up the phone today.

We'll send you a full-colour information pack with technical specifications at your fingertips. And be reassured we share your pursuit of excellence.

Call our sales staff on 0181 830 1100, Fax 0181 830 1122 AND QUOTE CODE T2/6

SHOWROOMS OPEN MON-FRI 9.30AM-6PM AT IRONBRIDGE CLOSE, GREAT CENTRAL WAY, LONDON NW10 0NW AND 10-11 FEAST FIELD TOWN STREET, HORSFORTH, LEEDS (TEL: 0113 259 1200)

INTERNET: www.dan.co.uk



Prices from £767 INC. VAT & DELIVERY* (FINANCE AVAILABLE)

dan Technology



1997/98 ANNUAL AWARDS

Service & Reliability Award PC Magazine, 1997 Survey

Best Service Award PC Pro, 1997 Survey

Customer Service Award PC Plus 1997 Annual Awards

Best On-Site Maintenance PCW 1997 Survey

Best Server Award PC Direct Hits 1998 Survey

Best Budget PC What PC? 1997 Annual Awards

Best Professional PC What PC? 1997 Annual Awards

"Dan can truly be said to be the best organisation at delivering excellence in customer satisfaction" PC Magazine, Aug 1997

Thinking outside the box

KEY BENEFITS

FIX YOUR MORTGAGE UNTIL 2003
6.79% 7.1% APR
HASSLE FREE

C&G Mortgage Direct provides the hassle-free way to enjoy the benefits of a mortgage fixed until 2003. Just call the number below and we'll get things moving right away.

THE FACTS

- Rate fixed at 6.79% 7.1% APR until 29 August 2003
- If you're remortgaging we'll take care of the legal work free of charge
- If you're moving home we'll give you £250 towards your costs
- No mortgage indemnity premium
- No valuation fee
- Available exclusively direct

CONTACT

- For full details call now, free, quoting reference T13F

Cheltenham & Gloucester MORTGAGE DIRECT

0800 731 8500

YOUR HOME IS AT RISK IF YOU DO NOT KEEP UP REPAYMENTS ON A MORTGAGE OR OTHER LOAN SECURED ON IT. Cheltenham & Gloucester plc, formerly Wm. Gloucester GLA 182. With the rate quoted above the fixed-rate period ends 29 August 2003. Typical example: Assume a fixed rate of 6.79% in the full term of the mortgage... (The rest of the small print text follows in a similar format.)

Gazza, Mellor and the secret of bouncing back

AS AUTHOR of his own misfortune, Paul Gascoigne has a long summer ahead to change the storyline and ensure that the next chapter is not an obituary on his glorious but troubled career. There is a way out of the anger and shame he feels now; others have found it, perhaps Gazza can too.

In fact, you could say — as many will testify — that being sacked is an essential career move. Many successful people have suffered professional failure or rejection. The passport to their survival was their attitude: the ability to view it as a temporary setback, an opportunity to change roles.

David Mellor fell spectacularly from grace when he was forced to resign as Heritage Secretary five years ago over his affair with Antonia de Sancha and after taking a family holiday which was paid for by the society hostess Mona Bauwens.

Today he has a highly success-

ful career as a sports broadcaster and has staged a remarkable political comeback, too. Mellor, a dedicated Chelsea fan, was the Prime Minister's surprise choice to head the "task force" charged with handing the game back to the fans.

"You have to hand it to David. He has more front than Blackpool," says an old Westminster colleague who would rather remain anonymous. "Anyone else would have slunk off and hidden. Not him, though."

After losing his Cabinet job, David just dusted himself down and set about carving a new career. Others would have turned to the bottle but he never even turned a hair — astonishing.

Others dismissed from service find the instant makeover harder to achieve. It takes time for the wounds to heal.

Jane Gordon remembers all too vividly the festering anger she suffered when she lost her job on a national newspaper. She felt

Will Gascoigne's World Cup exclusion make or break him? Bill Frost reports on celebrities who have prospered despite spectacular falls from grace

mocked by billboards featuring the smiling face of her replacement.

"There was lots of anger and a considerable dent to my self-confidence," she says. "I just had to cut off for a while and be with my family."

"I had this fantasy that the man who signed my death warrant would finally be forced to eat his words — that I would win an award for my work. It never actually happened, though."

Jane has gone on to write three novels (the first a *roman à clef*) and has a successful freelance career as a columnist on a Sunday newspaper. During her tempo-



Human boomerangs: Mellor and Horlick

rary retirement from Fleet Street, she reassessed her priorities, regained her self-confidence and decided that family was more important than scaling the greasy pole.

"In retrospect, I see that they

actually did me a favour. I had a chance to look at myself and to decide what kind of future I wanted."

But while Jane eventually profited from her experience, others become consumed by bitterness. They are incapable of turning the page.

The psychologist Dr Dorothy Rowe says that those suffering from low self-esteem will find the shock of dismissal far

harder to bear than the eternally resilient David Mellors of this world. She thinks that the secret of his continued success is "an inability to experience shame over being sacked from the Cabinet, or anything else for that matter".

Anger is acceptable, particularly when channelled positively. Dr Rowe applauds Nicola Horlick, the 36-year-old City fund manager who publicly humiliated the bosses who suspended her, and then found a better-paying job on a wave of publicity.

The option is not open to all, though. Dr Rowe says. Some people are too ashamed to look for a new role.

IF YOU feel treated unjustly, as Gazza undoubtedly does, a pattern of self-destruction can easily become established. Behind the anger and the past achievement is perhaps the feeling that he does not deserve his success, that he is unworthy in some way.

"Trouble lies ahead for the person who cannot look inside himself and realise that there is a problem, that rejection or dismissal are often self-fulfilling prophecies of a deep and unacknowledged inner fear."

"We must diversify in life and

prepare for the unexpected — construct another future. This is particularly important for someone like Gazza. Otherwise, when disappointment comes, we will be incapable of dealing with it."

Dr Rowe worries for Gazza and for all the others who find it hard to pick themselves up and start again. "The loss of a job or place in a team puts that individual into a state of utter terror. Their whole world will fall apart."

"Gazza's celebrity friends will not help him to sort out his problems. He must forget about losing his place in the England team, have a long look at himself and draw up another life-plan."

"So he has been dropped, but there are other priorities. He will find that in the end, other people are far more important."

"You can have all the celebrity, all the glory and all the money that the world can offer, but all that really matters in the final analysis is our relationships with other people."



The hardest journey of all: expatriates will often find that once the euphoria of being home has waned, they will have to learn to be ordinary again

Back to a new land

British expatriates just home from Jakarta may be thankful to have escaped uncertainty and violence in Indonesia, but few will realise that their problems have just begun. Once the euphoria of escape has worn off, they will have to face the prospect of adjusting to life back in Britain.

Life as an expat makes you special, part of an elite in a foreign land. You enjoy an exclusive and elevated status, the excitement of a new and different culture, and relative wealth. But in your own country you have to learn to be ordinary again, which makes "coming home" the hardest journey of all. Even though I had been back to visit every year, belonged here, sounded as if I was from here, I found myself a foreigner in my own country.

I was an expat for nearly 20 years, a "trailing spouse" following my husband, an engineer and then a manager with an international telecommunications company, from North Yemen in 1975, to Vanuatu in the South Pacific, to the Middle East, Washington, Tokyo and Sweden.

When I arrived back in Britain, there were times when I felt so cut off from British life that I wondered if I would ever settle down. Those making unplanned departures from Jakarta may indeed find themselves similarly bewildered. They may not be able to go straight back to their home, as many expatriates rent their houses out while they are abroad. They may find, as I did, that they do not know how to deal

Expatriate Jennifer Turnbull explains why she felt a foreigner in her own country

with insurance and council tax. They will be unfamiliar with new products.

When I arrived home, I realised that I did not know how to do the simplest things because I had never done them before. I didn't know the cost of a first-class stamp or how to go about voting in the council elections; where to park, where not to park. In a foreign country you always have an excuse for ignorance. In your own, few people make allowances for you.

I remember having no idea how much anything cost. If I sent my daughter out for a pint of milk, I did not know whether she needed 50p or £1. After I returned from Sweden, I translated krona to pounds and gave my daughters the same amount for their pocket money. It was much more than their friends were getting and I once again felt awkward.

When you find yourself in that situation, people think that you are either wealthy or snobbish. They tend to avoid you, and it is not surprising that they fail to realise that you simply don't know the value of money. Suddenly, after years in which the rent and all the bills have been paid for you, you have to budget. For almost 20 years living abroad, I had not had to bother with everyday bills. In Britain I came down to earth very sharply.

Socially, you find that the people

who used to be your friends have moved on. I am in my forties and by the time I returned, my children were taking themselves to school, so I did not meet parents at the gates. There was no easy way to make new friends.

I even found it difficult to join in with daily conversation because I shared few common experiences. I did not know what was happening in *EastEnders* or know what the local gossip was. So you talk instead about what you do know, namely living abroad. Every time I tried to join in a conversation, I found myself saying, "When I was in Japan, Sweden, America, Vanuatu..." It just seemed as if I was on a major ego trip.

As a result, making friends becomes difficult. I had huge gaps in my popular cultural knowledge: it was as though I had been in a time warp and had emerged to find that everything had changed.

Admittedly it does not take long to find out the basics of living: where to buy certain things or how to tax the car. Yet I was on a permanent learning curve, never knowing when I would miss things because I was not aware that they had changed. Perhaps the biggest shock of all was having to get police clearance to go on the county

supply teaching list — a sad sign of the times.

Part of the problem is that few returning expats anticipate the difficulties ahead. Compared with the horrors of police opening fire on streets filled with rioters or the anarchy of civil war, home seems like a safe and caring place. What could possibly cause distress or anguish once you are home among your loved ones?

Well, how about the loss of income and security, the disruption of family life and the practical considerations of living with relatives in houses too small for extended families? For the trailing spouse, it is all of this accompanied by a complete loss of status and a feeling of alienation as you try to fit back into a society that has changed without indication of where, or how, or by how much.

The saving grace for me was finding a job, after a year of intensive searching, in an American international university. The students were from a variety of countries, many of which I had visited. With them I felt a certain sense of belonging, for the first time since arriving home. Here, at last, I was among people with whom I shared a common bond: that of travel and life in an international community.

Our expats will undoubtedly enjoy celebrity status in the weeks ahead as they tell friends and family of their sometimes traumatic experiences, dodging flying bullets in a distant land. And then the unexpectedly difficult work of building a new life will begin.

'I had to confess to writing a dud play'

When Michael Frayn's face went up on hoardings outside the National Theatre during the recent building works, along with those of Stoppard, Pinter, Hare et al, he felt characteristically abashed: he had never had an original play at the National in his life, only translations of the likes of Chekhov and Tolstoy. Today, however, he can hold his lofty head even higher aloft, since his new play *Copenhagen*, at the Cottesloe, is already a palpable hit.

It is high time that Frayn had another theatrical success. After a succession of hits in the 1980s, his last play, *Now You Know*, toured the nation but failed to make it to the West End. In 1990 his *Look Back in Fear* fared worse, opening at the Aldwych but closing after 27 days. "That was a total catastrophe. I had to confess to having written a dud play. It was discouraging," he says. "but you'd never write anything again if you let the memory dominate your thoughts — as with childbirth."

Frayn's air of donnish diffidence makes him sound like an old Remington Luddite, but he has a Pison organiser in his pocket containing, *inter alia*, poems to read when waiting for trains — not just *Adlestrop* and Keats's *Autumn* but Ronsard, Rimbaud, Baudelaire and arcane German stuff.

Despite living in Claire Tomalin's substantial house in Regent's Park, no longer containing any of her children, Frayn leaves Tomalin to work on her biographies at home while he goes around the corner to write in a top-floor flat with a view into Sir Cameron Mackintosh's back garden and his tremendous cast parties with lights, music, fireworks.

As a child in Hillside Avenue and Queensmead Road in the London suburb of Ewell, about which he once made a lyrical television programme (I enjoyed growing up in the suburbs but was extremely anxious to leave), he wrote plays for his puppet theatre. His father, an asbestos salesman, gave the children asbestos samples to play with and, despite being deaf, would write comic sketches to perform at Christmas. Father playing the schoolmaster in pince-nez, Michael the hapless pupil: "Where have you been?" "Ware." "Yes, where?" "Ware! On the road to Cambridge!" "Where on the road to Cambridge?" etc.

He went to a Dotheboys Hall private school, where the deryngman head would beat 20 boys every morning after prayers. After his mother died, his father could not afford

Michael Frayn is happy to have another hit. Interview by Valerie Grove

school fees and a housekeeper so Michael, aged 12, went to Kingsdon Grammar, which he discovered to be not a descent into hell but a civilised academy. During National Service he was sent to Cambridge, where, with Alan Bennett, he was taught Russian by Dame Elizabeth Hill. Then he went up to read modern languages but switched to moral sciences, now known (to his regret) as philosophy: "No one knew what moral sciences were, but it sounded rather impressive."

I recall that during my time



Donnish: Michael Frayn

at Cambridge, Frayn once came back to the Varsity offices and everyone genuflected in awe at this visitation from a revered Fleet Street columnist. In his day on *Varsity*, Michael Winner was the editor. Winner decided to start an Oxford edition and took Frayn with him to Oxford, insisting on going by taxi and telling the driver to wait and take them back later. "No profits accrued to *Varsity* during Michael Winner's term," he says. He also wrote a Footlights May Week show — "the only Footlights show that didn't go on to London".

Frayn's National debut reunites him with Michael Blakemore, who directed *Noises Off* and other Frayn hits of the 1980s. *Copenhagen* imagines what might have happened when the German nuclear physicist Werner Heisenberg went in 1941 to Copenhagen to see Niels Bohr, his Danish counterpart and mentor. It is a dense, dazzling, intellectual drama, which you don't need O-level physics to enjoy.

It has few laughs and no set. Those thirsting, like Benedict Nightingale, for Frayn's com-

edy may be consoled that a production of his short sketches, *Alarms and Excursions* — Blakemore directing again — will tour this summer.

Dissolving into hysterical laughter in the theatre is what he calls "a benediction as pure and surprising as spring" and cites Ayckbourn's *Absurd Person Singular*, "the funniest play I've ever seen". (Ayckbourn wrote it in three days, he says without rancour.) *Noises Off* could also be so described: it ran for four years in the 1980s and is still performed all over the world.

Last year Frayn and the eldest of his three daughters, the writer Rebecca, did a "Relative Values" interview. She confessed that when her parents' marriage broke up, her response was to become the teenager from hell: drugs, truancy...

"Rebecca wanted to do that interview to tell parents of troublesome teenagers that it would be all right in the end, that they would come through the other side."

Frayn expected his daughters to go for shy introverts like himself and was astonished when Rebecca married Andy Harries, the head of comedy at Granada who hopes to televise Frayn's novel *The End of the Morning*, one of the funniest Fleet Street novels.

Inspired and moved by Rebecca's wedding, Frayn decided at 60 to marry Tomalin, with whom he had lived since 1981. "I suddenly saw the purpose of getting up in front of all your friends and declaring that you're a couple." Having chosen Marylebone Town Hall rather than Camden's register office, they needed a Westminster address — so he asked Michael Rudman if he could use his. But by the time the wedding day rolled around, he had forgotten the false address, so the registrar had to prompt him: "Are you sure you don't live at...?"

Frayn's radio monologues — a newly enabled peer choosing his title, an anxious householder struggling with his burglar alarm — are performed by Martin Jarvis, who can also do an uncanny imitation of Frayn himself, bemused clerical smile, self-deprecatory words almost inaudible. Frayn laughs and says people never do these brilliant imitations to one's face. "Peter Nichols does a wonderful one, too. I'm told."

As he left our table for a rehearsal, a face peered back at us from the next table round a corner — Tom Stoppard, hitherto concealed from view. Gosh, I muttered to Frayn, just suppose we'd been discussing him... but that would have been a cue for a Frayn farce.



WHATEVER YOU'RE DOING AT 9PM TONIGHT. CANCEL. NOW.

DIANA'S DRIVER WAS DRUNK AND HIGH ON DRUGS THAT TRAGIC NIGHT, BUT IS THAT THE WHOLE TRUTH? TONIGHT IT REVEALS ASTONISHING NEW EVIDENCE ABOUT HIS BLOOD SAMPLE, AND MUCH MORE. TONIGHT AT NINE, MAKE SURE YOU'RE NEAR A TELEVISION.

TONIGHT 9-00PM

DIANA - SECRETS BEHIND THE CRASH

ITV

www.itv.co.uk

JUN 12 1998



"It is only when I'm in prison that my creativity seems to blossom. I have always considered it an almost sacred duty to record everything I see in this demimonde"

Born to be bad?

Visiting time lasts most of the afternoon at Blakenhurst, a grim, privately run prison on the edge of the Black Country. The prisoners, dressed in identikit red bibs, sit at low tables waiting for their visitors to negotiate an obstacle course of security checks. These include passing through a metal detector, having your fingerprints taken, being stamped with a mark which shows up under ultra-violet light and removing your shoes. At least you are allowed to keep your trousers on.

Little escapes the attention of the intimidating prison guards: my chocolate bar and magazine are confiscated, and I am sent back to my car twice: to leave behind my phone and a notepad. "You aren't allowed to bring in any twirly bits of metal," the guard says, pointing at my pen. He has the charm of a nightclub bouncer on commission.

An hour later you meet a prisoner — in my case the writer, aesthete and recidivist Peter Wayne, who is currently on remand. With his sensitive face and sophisticated vocabulary, Wayne seems out of place in such an environment. His voice is quiet, educated. He could pass for an academic or a country parson were it not for the scars on his neck and right ear, reminders of the afternoon he almost died after being attacked by a fellow prisoner. "I remember lying on the floor, blood gushing from where he had slashed me with a piece of glass, and thinking that I didn't want to die in prison. Before I passed out, I had a vision of being carried out in a bodybag."



Peter Wayne is a writer, aesthete and recidivist who has spent most of his life in jail. Is he a misfit or just a rebel? Interview by Jason Cowley

Wayne, 42, is a mystery even to himself. He has had many advantages: a public school education, wealthy parents, influential sponsors such as Sir Richard Rogers, charm, talent. He writes a column for *Prospect* magazine, and contributes to *The New Yorker*, *Esquire*, *The Spectator* and the *New Statesman*. Yale University Press is publishing his monograph on the architect Thomas Archer, a contemporary of Hawksmoor and Christopher Wren. He is working on a novella.

Yet he has spent most of the past 20 years in prison, a victim of his own disregard for conventional morality. Eight weeks ago he was released after ten years in 12 prisons for fraud and armed robbery (his sentence was increased after he attempted to escape dressed in a home-made clergyman's outfit). "I was determined to go straight, to make a go of things," he says, smiling. "But I found I couldn't cope."

Together with a young East End, whom he met in Soho, Wayne hired a car and began a tour of what he calls our "newly cool Britannic kingdom", a one-month orgy of drunken criminality. He stayed at five-star hotels in the West Country, the Lake District and in Scotland, eating fine food and enjoying as much vintage wine as he could — all funded fraudulently. "It was enormous fun. I pretended to be a respectable father taking his wayward son on holiday. Everyone was fooled."

mother used to visit him in prison, but would always leave in tears. This time, she asked her son a simple question: why, when he had so much natural talent, had he turned to crime? "I told her that, in many ways, I'd not completely failed," he says. "People ask me to write for them; I've written for *The New Yorker*, for goodness' sake."



"The 'freedom' of prison"

which is a bit like scaling the Mount Olympus of journalism. But she wasn't impressed. She said (he mimics his mother, adopting an exaggerated Mancunian accent) "Oh, Peter, writing book reviews, that's nothing. With your talents you could have done anything."

He breaks off. He peers up at a fellow prisoner, a black youth, tearfully kissing a blonde, tattooed girlfriend. This seems to unsettle Wayne. "I hate myself for being such a prick sometimes. But I've been a criminal as long as I can remember. I started stealing at school. The problem was that my father, a meat trader, always let me off; and whenever I got into trouble his

influential friends bailed me out. The local police officer in Bolton used to say 'Now come on Peter, you're letting your father down,' then send me home with another warning."

Why does this story fail to convince? Wayne, a former actor, delivers his lines with theatrical relish. An accomplished confidence trickster, he seems always to be filling a role. He explains that to survive in prison, he must disguise his accent, coarsen his features, patrol the corridors with an aggressive swagger. "You've got to send out the right signals, show that you can look after yourself."

Then, as if to please me, he claims to be an "amoralist" and begins discussing Jean Genet, whose life of crime and existential rebellion fascinates him. There are similarities between the two writers. Wayne, like Genet, is a homosexual and drug user, who draws inspiration from being an outcast. He believes, again like Genet, that he is most free when, paradoxically, he has no freedom. "It is only when I'm in prison that my literary creativity seems to blossom."

It was through reading Genet's *Thief's Journal* that Wayne realised that imprisonment need not be wasted. "I've tried to use my eye as a camera and have always considered it an almost sacred duty to record everything I see in this demimonde."

For more than two decades, Wayne kept a journal, a record of everything he experienced in prison, from homosexual brutality ("I've had some fantastic lovers inside prison: so much is taken from you that the sexual act becomes electric") to his struggles with heroin ("It's easy to smuggle in"). The journals are obscene, witty, indulgent, inspiring. They are also abandoned in a derelict flat in southeast London, where Wayne stayed before his tour of Cool Britannia. "I'm worried about my

journals," he says. "Can you imagine if something happened to them, all that work?"

Is Peter Wayne a fool? Speaking to him you get no sense of any great suffering; rather, he seems to enjoy prison: the danger, the drugs and easy sex. He never expresses any regret, nor condemns anyone but himself.

He was adopted as a baby, but does not use this as an excuse. "I've never had any wish to find my natural parents, never been curious. If they didn't want me then, they aren't going to want me now. I'm hardly someone to be proud of. In fact, I've always been made to feel special. My parents have said to me 'Peter, you are a chosen one: we chose you'. I kind of liked not knowing who I am: that I could be the son of a docker or a lord."

Wayne has huge charm and an engaging intelligence, yet seems unable to rationalise his own criminality. Of the victims of his robberies, he can only say: "I've never set out to hurt anyone, never done anything really evil." Yet he speaks of his fellow prisoners with awe, reverently describing the compromises and loyalties that make up prison life. The worst thing you can do, he says, "apart from being a nonce or a rapist, is steal from someone's cell". Honour among thieves indeed.

"I guess I'm institutionalised now," he adds. "I'm not sure if I could survive out there. And that's why I go on these rampages, because I know that I will soon be back. When I was released I didn't sleep for four days: I had to make use of every minute. I'd not had a glass of champagne for nine years, so I drank nine bottles. Everything becomes more intense, more..."

A prison officer interrupts: "Time's up." Wayne rises, gathers his notes and gives a slight smile as he is led across the room, where the freedom of his cell awaits. Before disappearing, he calls out: "Remember to say that I was wearing a Hackett shirt."

Home, the ultimate lifestyle accessory

We've got the sports coupes, gym memberships and high pressured jobs. So what other accessory does the single professional female need to complete her lifestyle wardrobe? A home of her own: a safe haven where she can kick off her mules and climb into a scented bath. As well as a comfort zone, our pads are girly wine bars, health spas, extended offices and restaurants in which to cook and thus seduce lovers.

Today an increasing number of single, twentysomething women are investing in property. While the Nineties girl defers marriage and motherhood to further her career, she needs a base in which to enjoy the spoils of her freedom and success.

The influx of girls on the block has forced estate agents to adopt new tactics to meet the "no man's land" needs of the Bridget Jones brigade. They are discerning buyers, as the BBC2 programme *All The Right Moves* (Thursday 8.30pm) discovers.

Safety is a high priority — video entry phones, window locks and infra-red alarm sensors are particularly important. Modern, portered mansion blocks are popular. Ground-floor garden flats are not. Bus stops and stations must be a short, brightly-lit walk away. And the location must be stimulating; areas with a high density of bars, restaurants, fashion shops and delicatessens are perfect for the career girl who has limited free time

and unlimited credit.

It is also reassuring to live close to other solo dwellers. Kate Williams, a City PA, owns a New York-style apartment in London's Bow. There is CCTV, underground parking, and security guards prowling around to protect the pampered inhabitants, who also have a gym, pool, Jacuzzi, bar and shop. "Coming home is a treat. I don't have to go out at all if I choose not to," Kate says.

Aesthetic appeal is also

only time that her minimalist home presents a problem is when friends stay. "One friend complained that I kept tidying her things up into the car."

Women prefer low-maintenance homes, though they have no objection to paying someone else to remove. Nina Richards, the 31-year-old managing director of Wizard Public Relations, has overseen the conversion of a crumbling school boiler room to a tailor-made executive pad, complete with a vast, mosaic-bottomed bath. "I'm not even planning to pick up a paintbrush," she admits.

Living alone is never cheap and as the demand for single homes increases, so does price, as more buyers compete against each other. But if you are a single woman about to grab your electronic organiser and race

to the nearest estate agent, you can afford to take time out for a coffee first. According to Hilary Wade, of the agents Winkworth's, young professional men are far slower off the mark — they stay in rented accommodation much longer than women, or stay at home with their parents. And when they eventually do go looking, they are less certain of what they want. The traditional bachelor pad is under new occupancy, and the owner has got her high heel firmly in the door.

FIONA WALKER

© Snap Happy, by Fiona Walker, Hodder and Stoughton, £16.99, is published on June 4



Dwelling on a change: Fiona Walker

If some interest rates seem too good to be true, that's exactly what they could be.

7%

GUARANTEED

to match rise in Base Rate

You'll see plenty of adverts for savings accounts offering bumper rates of interest but it's not until you read the small print that you realise that many are destined to drop after a few months. Others have so many restrictions on withdrawal you'd be as well putting your money in a long term notice account.

With Instant Access Savings Account, Bank of Scotland actually has a guarantee to match rise in Base Rate*. We also offer instant access with no penalties or restrictions on withdrawals and free telephone banking.

The account is straightforward and simple to use. For balances up to £5,000 we pay a competitive rate of 5% gross**. At £5,000 and above we pay 7% gross** which compares very favourably with the competition, especially when you consider that this rate is guaranteed to match rises

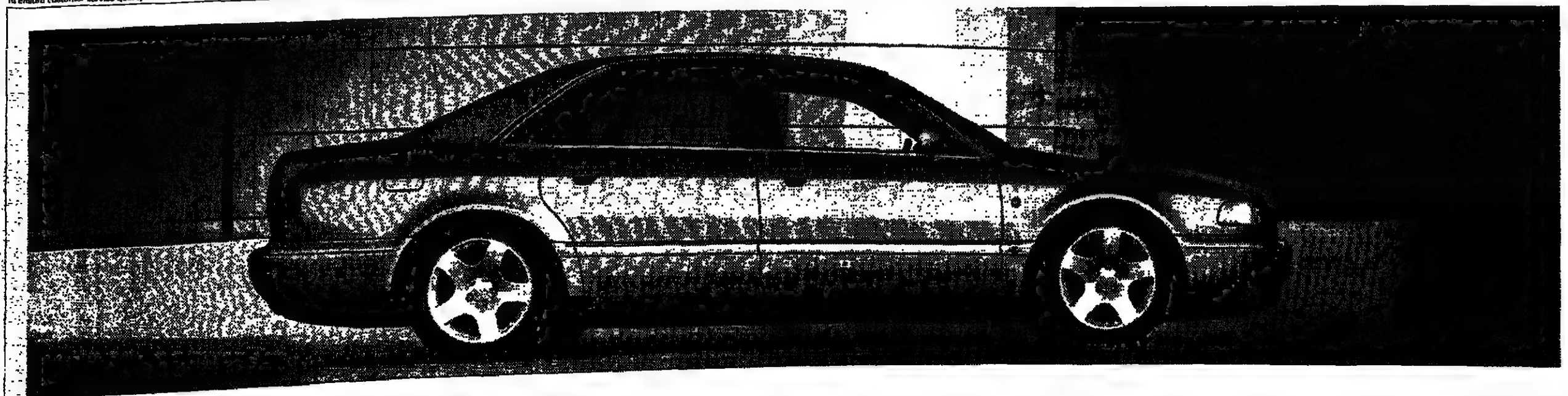
In Base Rate. All this from the comfort of your home 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. So there's never any need to waste time queuing at your Bank or Building Society.

When choosing your savings account, we urge you to check the small print and make sure you get long term competitive rates and the flexibility you need. Instant Access Savings Account from Bank of Scotland fits the bill.

For a low down and an application form, call us free on 0500 804 804.

BANK OF SCOTLAND
BANKING
DIRECT
0500 804 804

To ensure customer service quality standards some calls may be recorded.



Never knowingly oversold
Why don't you see many Audi A8 models on the road? Simple. Because there aren't many for sale.

To experience the luxury Audi A8, please call 0345 699 777.

Audi
Vorsprung durch Technik

Is Labour too old-fashioned for Athens?

Let's choose peers as we do our juries, urges Anthony Barnett

We must modernise," the Government cries out, as if it is being radical. Perhaps it is — within the milieu of the media, Westminster, and its body-guard of spin-doctors. In the real world, however, an already modern country lives and breathes. Will the two worlds meet? The coming reform of the Lords provides a test case. If Blair fails it, we can draw the curtain — or as one wit put it, the wallpaper — over "new" Labour.

I should declare an interest. In my book *This Time* (Vintage), I suggest that there has been a fundamental shift in public mood that makes it realistic for Britain to adopt a written constitution. Yet constitutions need their general character to be debated. Otherwise they wither and die. And the old one has died. As William Hague ruefully admitted, the Conservative Party, guardian of the narcotic order, became a victim of its rigor mortis: "We had allowed the language," he complained, "to become so abstract and unfamiliar that phrases such as 'sovereignty', 'the supremacy of Parliament', 'the rule of law', even the word 'constitution' itself, are literally meaningless to most people."

Recent opinion polls show that the concepts have not become meaningless. Rather, what has ceased to be relevant is the special "British meaning" these terms were given by the traditional context of hierarchy and deference.

In 1993, the Rowntree Trust commissioned a MORI poll that showed 79 per cent support for a written constitution to "provide clear legal rules" for ministers and civil servants. That astounding result was treated as a blip. Now a similar poll has just been published by NOP. It reveals 85 per cent support for a written constitution.

This is a Mussolini level of endorsement. Indeed, many a dictator's plebiscite has scored less. But who has led the public in this direction? The politicians tell each other that "the people are not ready" for such a drastic measure. Since the general election no organ of extensive public influence has advocated a written constitution in Britain, except perhaps *The Mail on Sunday*. Once a cause of *The Guardian* and *The Observer*, these papers seem to regard it as yesterday's fashion. It is never mentioned on television, apparently because it is less "sexy" than debates about the Queen. Labour does not call for a written constitution. The Liberal Democrats say they "always do" then lapse into silence. Mr Hague considered a constitutional convention, but dropped the idea.

Could the media and political elite come round to public opinion? Gordon Brown now favours a written constitution, it is said. Tony Blair does not rule it out, apparently. Over the next few months, they and their colleagues will confront an issue that brings the larger picture into focus — the reform of the Lords after the abolition

of its hereditary element. The House of Lords may seem unimportant because it is largely symbolic. But, to use a current phrase, its symbolism branded Britain. The House of Lords provides an image of what Britain was. In its reform of the second chamber, therefore, Labour will be telling us what it wants Britain to become.

There are genuine problems with most proposals for reform of the Lords, such as an elected or a regional-based chamber. Often they lead to political gridlock, which America shows, opens the way to corruption. The Government would be right to reject such measures, which anyway belong to the mid-century. The aim should not be limited to "catching up", as if other countries have solved the problems of modern government. On the contrary, democracy everywhere stands in need of revitalisation. Reform of the Lords should be seized as a chance to move ahead.

Inspired by the inventiveness of classical Athens, a colleague and I have proposed a representative Upper House selected largely by lot like a jury (while retaining some appointed "People's Peers").

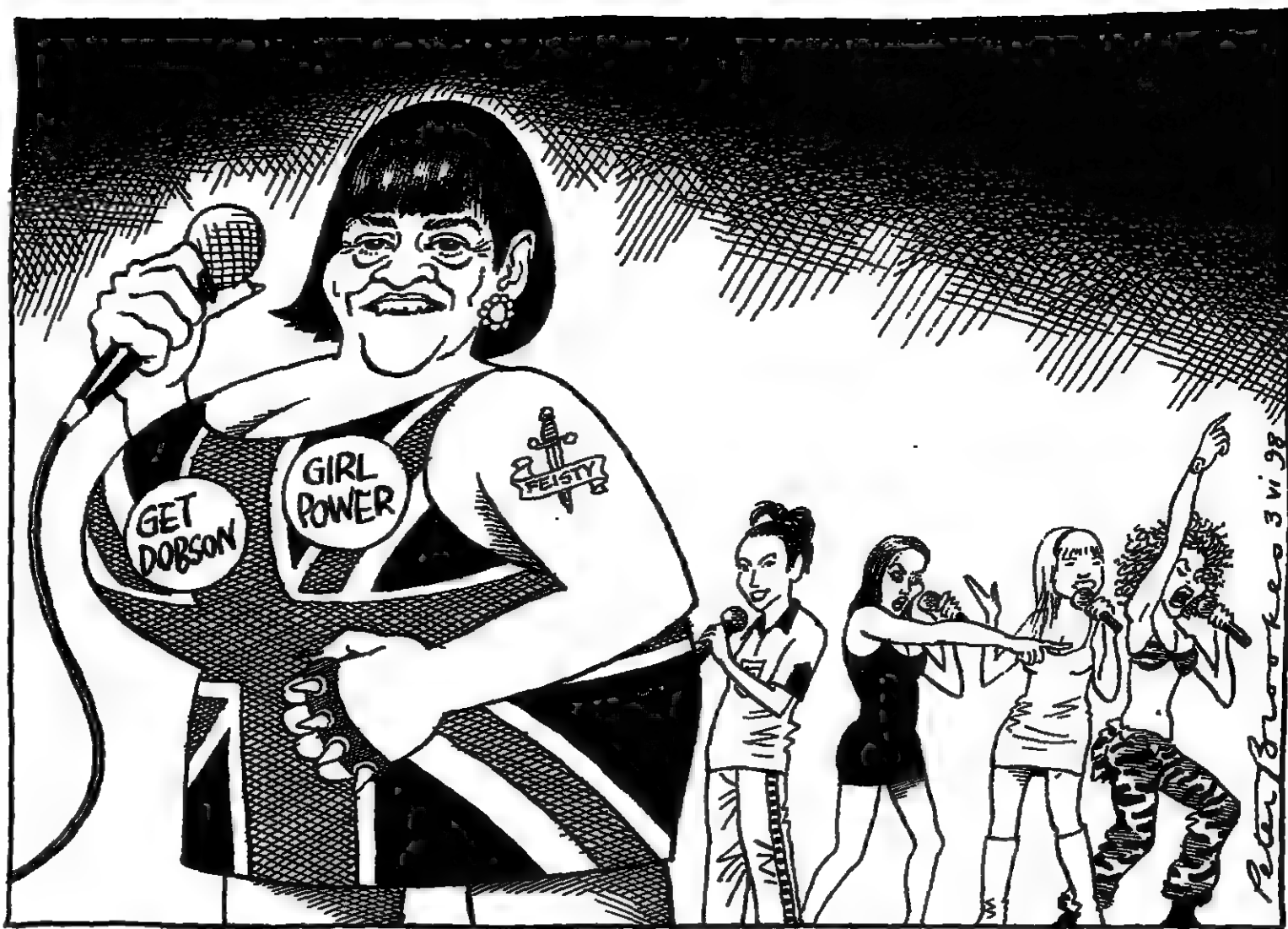
None would be legislators; that is the role of elected politicians. Instead, the ordinary citizens in the Upper House could check and complement the House of Commons through scrutiny of legislation, ensuring, for example, that it is written in clear and comprehensible English. Recently, Mr Hague set down the six Tory conditions for the renewal of the Lords, presumably in the hope that no reform could meet them. The Athenian option does so triumphantly.

Experiments with citizens' juries and other deliberative methods of participatory democracy have been widely welcomed for local government. A second chamber developed on similar lines need be neither exotic nor impractical. The last state to cling to aristocratic rulers could become the first to apply modern citizen scrutiny to its parliament.

It seems all too likely, however, that the Government will declare that "enough is enough" and that no further constitutional radicalism is required. New Labour will become "good old" Labour, as it declares the profound wisdom of our constitutional mores, thus closing the door on a new settlement.

The alternative is a process that will include, naturally, a written constitution that can articulate the relations between the decentralised parts of the United Kingdom and check the executive. Lords reform could open the way to a new, overall approach. Far from regarding this as a revolution, we now know that 85 per cent of the public will raise an eyebrow and ask, "What took you so long?"

The Athenian Option by Anthony Barnett and Peter Carty is available from Demos.



WHO THE SPICE GIRLS REALLY, REALLY WANT...

The devil in Downing St

Hague has a problem: Labour's theft of Tory policies makes opposition impossible

There is an odd story doing the rounds, that Tony Blair is not quite what he seems. Each night he sneaks up to the Downing Street attic, takes out a wig and a handbag and kneels in contemplation before a little wax lady. The shrine was left by his predecessor, covered in pin marks. Mr Blair returns downstairs with a blue glow emanating from his cranium. His advisers are said to be "concerned" but not yet "worried".

What does the wax lady tell him? We all know the superficial message. "Now Tony," murmurs the blonde Buddha, "remember only this: back the Treasury, screw the unions, smash Labour, hate Brussels, love Washington and keep the middle classes happy. Do this and you will be showered with golden petals." Mr Blair is a quick learner. His actions in office speak obedience.

The deeper message is more difficult to read. Each week chickens reared by the last Government come strutting into the farmyard, clucking happily. After the last general election they expected to have their necks wrung. Instead they are welcomed to the roost and given chickfeed. By yesterday the June batch alone included the Channel Tunnel link, the Crown Prosecution Service, the National Lottery contractor Camelot, central control of schools and, biggest rooster of them all, Kenneth Clarke's old public spending targets. These targets were presented at the election as transitional, a bookkeeping convenience pending a fairer, more effective, more caring set of targets. Yesterday Gordon Brown said that, after detailed investigation, the Tories' judgment of what is fair, effective and caring was uncannily similar to Labour's. It must be rigorously enforced for the rest of the Parliament. Not an inch would be conceded to tax and spend.

This is not the normal stuff of "Tony is a Tory" satire. It reflects a different legacy of the Thatcher-Major years, that of Margaret Thatcher's celebrated denunciation of *laissez faire*, her belief in centralism and her concentration of power at Downing Street. As Mr Blair rises from his knees, the wax lady stops muttering her mantra and emits a shriek that can be heard across Downing Street: "Get more control, get more control, get more control." Mr Blair's eyes widen to a stare and blue ectoplasm fills the attic.

This legacy is already visible in

trivial daily interventions. The Sports Minister, Tony Banks, feels he must publicly approve Glenn Hoddle's sacking of Paul Gascoigne. Downing Street feels it must select the Queen's party guests for her. Mr Blair must stop Ken Livingstone from standing as London mayor. The Prime Minister yearns for a Prime Minister's department. He eagerly hosts international conferences to set the world to rights. He refuses to decentralise national businesses.

These phenomena are expected of those new to power. What is intriguing about this week's clutch of announcements is the vigour with which Labour is adopting an eccentric feature of Tory centralism, that of "neo-nationalisation".

One of the great confidence tricks of Thatcherism was that the selling of state enterprises such as cars, steel, aerospace, gas and airlines would shrink the public sector. It did no such thing. Some industries were privatised and sub-contracts put out to tender. But new public industries were created in the service sector and natural monopolies, whether or not in private ownership, saw policy and profit determined in Whitehall under statutory regulation.

This week one of Margaret Thatcher's earliest nationalisations, that of the old police solicitors, came unstuck. The Crown Prosecution Service was set up in 1986 as a fully fledged nationalised industry. It supplanted private solicitors with "Crown Prosecutors", awash in the predictable bureaucracy and target setting. The failures revealed in the Glidewell report follow those of three other nationalised services set up by the Tories — the Child Support Agency, the Student Loans Company and the Legal Aid Scheme.

No less interventionist was the takeover and subsidising by the Treasury of a sizeable portion of the gambling industry via the lottery. This was described by both Labour and Tory MPs in the last Parliament as "the unacceptable face of national-

isation" (Ann Clwyd's words). Today the lottery monopoly is on its way to joining national insurance and the road tax fund as just another source of Treasury income. Both the monopoly and its chief private beneficiary, Camelot, seem safe under Labour.

This week another neo-nationalisation came to the trough. The Channel Tunnel rail link had been in the private sector but is to be taken over by that Tory peculiar, a parastatal private monopoly, Railtrack, like Camelot, is private sector only in name, in the pay of its executives and in the cost of borrowing. It is regulated and financed through indirect subsidy from rail franchise-holders. It cannot fail. We heard yesterday that Railtrack is being granted the subsidy denied to the genuinely private London and Continental consortium. The private sector is suspect, Tory parastatals are "one of us".

Likewise the announcement yesterday by David Blunkett, the Education Secretary, that he will be the monitor and judge of good and bad schools. He has made himself responsible not just for budgets and teacher pay and bonuses but for outdoor lavatories, computers, homework, truancy and the opening and closing of schools. Local councils are to be mere servicing agencies. Bevan predicted that the clatter of every hospital bedpan would be heard in the Palace of Westminster. Mr Blunkett wants the scratch of every chalk and the click of every computer to be heard in Whitehall. He even has his own "Divisional Manager, Discipline and Attendance".

When the Government promised to disband the Tory Funding Agency for Schools, naive observers thought it meant to return all school administration to local councils. Not so. For Mr Blunkett an agency at arm's length was simply too far from his office. The national education service initiated by Kenneth Baker and John Paton is almost complete. Whitehall now promises to give Britain's schools the model bureaucracy it has

long offered its prisons, hospitals and courts, heaven help them all.

These addicts now have power surging through their veins. They are maintaining on control. Yet to whom might the public turn to blow the whistle? Once upon a time, the Conservative Party would have marched proud against the concentration of power in Whitehall. Toryism was the ideology of pluralism, of local government and civic pride. Radical Thatcherism even declared that the scope of central government should diminish rather than grow in a modern political economy.

Eighteen years of power have left such Toryism shattered. William Hague's recent Shadow Cabinet, described as "right-wing", are hamstrung by their individual and collective past as appeasers of the public sector. New Labour policies are old Tory ones, redressed in waffle. The new Shadow Chancellor, Francis Maude, can hardly oppose the Treasury control freaks he once led into battle. The Shadow Education Secretary, David Willetts, can hardly oppose school nationalisation, when it was pioneered by his colleague, Gillian Shephard. Other Shadows cannot demand the break-up of the Railtrack, Camelot or water parastatal monopolies. They created them. Nor can they plausibly demand greater freedom for local democracy. For two decades their ethos was centralism. Mr Hague is a creature of that ethos, a McKinsey managerialist rather than a democrat. He could not even bring himself to support Scots or Welsh devolution.

The hope is that the Tories might declare a cultural revolution. A Damascene conversion would require them to renounce the centralism of the Thatcher-Major years. Half the Shadow Cabinet would have to admit they were wrong. Shadow ministers would affirm a new scepticism towards the acts and institutions of central government. They would have to recast Toryism as drastically as Mr Blair reshaped Labour. I am not sure they have it in them.

Britain faces relentless aggrandisement by big government, unconstrained by an impotent Opposition. Unlimited power corrupts without limit. Labour may have pledged to "decentralise power throughout the United Kingdom". But the devil in Downing Street always has the best tunes.

Simon Jenkins

Mercy flight

TONY BANKS, that stout defender of Glenn Hoddle, has been protecting another lame animal. The Sports Minister failed to turn up for a recent meeting at his department in order to care for a pigeon his chauffeur had run over. Banks (pictured), a caring, cuddly, kind of guy, was in no doubt about his duty. "It is true, I was late for a meeting, although I don't think I missed it altogether," Banks tells me, confiding that he doubts whether his day job is "worthwhile". "I can't remember which meeting. I go to so many, most of which I probably don't need to be at anyway. I have picked up plenty of pigeons and taken them home. That gets my priority over meetings any day."

The Banks abode is fully equipped for wounded wildlife. "I have got a cage and a full chest of medicine, so when I bring the bird back I give it an inspection and, depending on the result, either release it or nurse it back to health." If the bird's injuries are too severe, he airlifts it to a pigeon rescue centre at Croydon. "I shouldn't be saying this, because I will be invaded by limping pigeons from your readers." I gather the bird made a full recovery.

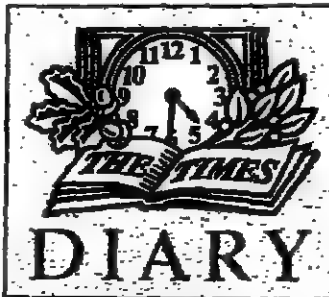
● **SAD boy news.** David Baddiel and Frank Skinner, the presenters of Fantasy Football League, are keeping Paul Gascoigne in their team. The television comedians are retaining the couplet "Gazza good as before, Shearer certain to



score" in their updated version of *Three Lions*, their hit single from Euro 96. They hope it will become an anthem of defiance against Glenn Hoddle.

Spud she likes

ANN WIDDECOMBE was certainly an imaginative appointment as health spokesman. As pictures of the Tory heavyweight rather suggested, Miss W has little time for fashionable diets. In conversa-



tion with William Hague's big gun yesterday, I braced myself to ask the question the nation has been pondering: *what does she eat for lunch?* "No meal is a meal unless there is a plateful of potato in its own right," she told me. When I ran this past Frank Dobson yesterday, he was diplomatic: "I would not exclude potatoes but too much of one thing can be bad for you," he says. "I keep my food varied with plenty of vegetable and fibre." Hmm. He has always struck me as a bit of an egg and chips man, but then Ken Clarke was a highly successful Health Secretary putting on cigars and swigging ale. Ann should go down a storm.

● **GERI HALLIWELL**, the Spice Girl on a one-way journey to anonymity, has been promptly replaced by a red-headed puppet. A crisp manufacturer, who has been

employing the singing quintet to promote his snacks, was about to snap the gals for some advertising nonsense when Ginger Spice went sulking from the group. The puppet, I gather, did little to reduce the combo's audio quality.

Welsh carp

THE green, green grass of Pontypridd has become a battleground over the soul of Tom Jones (pictured). Labour is planning a millennium museum to its hometown hero. "We must have a permanent tribute to Tom," cooed councillor Joyce Cass, who hopes Jones will open the museum on his 60th



birthday, in 2000. Plaid Cymru (hiss) takes a less charitable view of the crinkly Lothario, who once paid tribute to the Valleys but oddly lives elsewhere. "What has he ever done for Pontypridd other than make us a laughing-stock for the knicker-throwing brigade?"

● **CLARE SHORT** has suffered a tricky desertion. Jessica Crowe, her firmly built special adviser, known as "Baby Short", has stalked out to work on an even more PC project on human rights. Described rather alarmingly as "the brains behind the operation", she has been replaced by a former Robin Cook slave, David Megphun. I hope he has Ms Short's interests at heart.

Candid tale

EMMA TENNANT, cerebral scion of the lively literary clan which includes delicate Stephen, striking Stella and the holidaying Lord Glenconner, is writing her "rather gripping" memoirs, inspired, she says, by Voltaire's *Candide*. "It will start at my coming-out ball in 1956, and becomes a quest through the worlds of gambling, satire and revolution. The Tennant soap opera plays throughout." Emma is 50 pages into her draft, and is stuck on a role for her beguiling niece Stella, (pictured) the "super" mod-



el, who I reckon is something of a Miss Cunegonde, the "excessively handsome" young wench who so enchants *Candide*.

● **THE** exotic Michael Brown, the fallen Tory MP, has returned to Westminster. He was installed in the gallery as a sketchwriter yesterday for *The Independent*. Glad to hear the newspaper, so right-on, has decided to adopt a more generous line on cash for questions.

JASPER GERARD

Alan Coren



■ This is a job for Blazza, the People's Polymath

My fingers, this morning, tremble as they type. Who could blame them? Today's may well be their final job. My fingers may be facing a future of solitaire, crochet, and running down situations vacant columns.

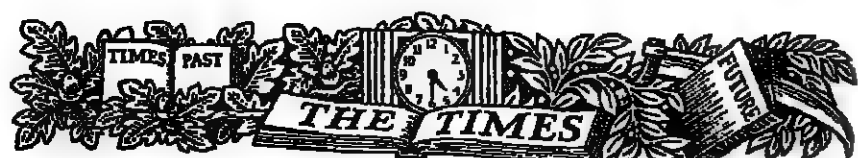
It all depends on whether — to borrow the quaint mantra of Prime Minister's Question Time — Mr Blair has any plans to visit Wapping. Because if the spirit does move him to bless these premises with a gracious visit some day soon, it is more than possible that he will want to show what he can do, for that is what he does wherever he goes. He may, that is to say, sit down at the nearest machine and jot out 800 words. And should that happen, they will, you can be certain, outshine any 800 words that I could cobble. There will be nothing left for my fingers to do but chuck a few pitiful bits and bobs into a red-spotted handkerchief, knot them to a pole, and push the bar marked Exit.

For I know what you will be asking yourself when, soon after 9 o'clock tonight, you and your loved ones are rolling helplessly about on the Aaminster, hooting at the Prime Minister's uproarious jokes on the *Des O'Connor Show*: you will be asking yourself whether it can really be only a year since the same man pedalled himself a glorious victory in the EU Ministers' Bicycle Race in Amsterdam — greatly to the chagrin of Helmut Kohl, who, lacking a crane, was not even able to mount. Was ever a nation so fortunate, you will further ask yourself, as to have a leader so triumphant in such disparate skills? And if you ask it out loud, it is quite possible that any loved one sufficiently recovered will then remind you that the Prime Minister is not merely a champion comic cyclist, he is also, according to President Clinton, a natural golfer, though he has only once picked up a club. Nor, a moment or two after this recollection, will you be at all surprised to discover that the Prime Minister is not on the *Des O'Connor Show* merely to tell jokes better than his host could, with a broader grin, a twinkler eye, and bigger hair, he is also there to deliver expert opinion on the imminent World Cup. The reason you will not be surprised is that you have not only seen your Prime Minister kicking a football about, you have heard, following these captivating clips, an even more illustrious *Des* than tonight's proclaim Mr Blair skilled enough to have become a professional. Indeed, when you spotted Monday's cataclysmic headlines about the departure of Gazza, it may well have occurred to you that Hoddle had given him the buller to make way for Blazza.

And is there not an outside chance of truth in the rumour that when Emperor Akihito's lunch at No 10 last week ran 45 minutes over, it was because the little chap was in the basement gymnasium, being impeccably thrown over the shoulder of the only black-belt rock-guitarist ever to have thrilled the entire French nation with his flawless command of their tricky tongue? Possibly, *pace* the immortal shade of Jimmy Durante, while his left foot was cracking walnuts.

But can all this continue, without ending in tears? I fear not. When it comes to any kind of success, ours is a grudging race, but when it comes to polymathic success, the British can grow very snuffy indeed. We wonder if certain people can still get their boots on. We wonder if they can still get their hats off. Especially when the paragon just happen to come in pairs: husbands will not want to be told that Tony Blair would have had that shelf up in seconds, any more than wives will want to be asked why they are not bringing in £200,000 per annum like Cherie, never mind taking two stone off at the drop of a calorie.

May I therefore humbly suggest to the Prime Minister that, if he wishes to remain one, he would be advised to think twice before yet again effortlessly succeeding at something at which the rest of us can only struggle. That he has within his grasp both the Booker Prize and the London Marathon I do not for one moment doubt: I doubt only the wisdom of his grasping them. So should the four extant Spice Girls try to ring him from the gum tree they currently find themselves up, the smart move — though he has, of course, perfect pitch — would be not to take the call.



BROWN IN THE BLACK

The next Prime Minister versus the Iron Chancellor

In his quest to succeed Tony Blair, Gordon Brown has tended to adopt an ideological position that is always a whisker to the left of the Prime Minister, hoping thereby to profit from any dissent in the party. He knows too, however, that it is by his actions as Chancellor that he will be judged, and that his actions will often have to be less popular than his posturing. The dilemma facing Gordon Brown is how to run the economy responsibly without losing too much favour on the left.

From Philip Snowden to Stafford Cripps, and from Roy Jenkins to Denis Healey, the positions of Labour Chancellors in the party have been undermined. Labour activists, on the whole, want more public spending and borrowing and higher taxes on business and the rich. Since many work in education, health and local authorities, they are keen on higher public sector pay.

Yesterday a delegation of trade unionists demanded that Mr Brown lift his self-imposed restraint on public spending. He chose instead to reiterate his "golden rule" that, in the course of an economic cycle, current spending should not exceed tax revenues: borrowing should be used only for capital expenditure. As the economy is still growing, he is aiming for a "small" current surplus in the next few years, to offset any deficits that may arise if recession hits.

This stricture is not quite as fierce as it sounds. The Chancellor will still be able to borrow money for transport infrastructure, school building repairs or new hospitals. And he has not defined what a "small" surplus is: the current surplus of just over £5 billion may leave some room for extra spending. But what he seems determined not to do is to allow taxpayers' money to evaporate on public sector pay with no visible results in the form of higher school

standards, better health or cleaner streets. Even with the surpluses in place, current spending will still be able to rise as fast as the economy grows, because tax revenues will also increase. The Chancellor is right, however, to insist upon relative restraint for the next few years because, as John Major saw, the descent into deficit when the economy turns down can happen with vertiginous speed. The Liberal Democrats are wrong to accuse Mr Brown of building up a war chest for the next election: he is building up a war chest for the next recession.

Fierce rhetoric is needed now for two reasons. Ministers, chafing from the yoke of keeping to the spending limits set by the Conservatives during the first two years of the Parliament, have made outlandish bids for their departments in the comprehensive spending review. And public sector employees feel that they have waited long enough for the largesse that they consider their right. Public sector pay and strikes have been the rock upon which previous Labour Governments foundered. Mr Brown must preach austerity and stick to it.

On another front, too, the Chancellor is likely to court unpopularity with the Left. Ministers will decide in the next few weeks whether the minimum wage should be £3.60 an hour, and where to set the age thresholds for earning it. The Low Pay Commission recommended that 18 to 21-year-olds should be paid a lower hourly rate than their seniors. Mr Brown thinks the upper age limit should be closer to 25. He is right. Such a limit would maximise youth employment; if the cut-off age were 21, many of his New Dealers would find it harder to get a job. As long as Mr Brown concentrates on being a good chancellor, the Prime Minister need not feel too insecure in the company of his neighbour at No 11.

NAMES TO NOTE

New musical talent can keep Russia alive

From the harmonies of the Russian Orthodox Church liturgy to the magnificence of the Bolshoi, from the symphonies of Tchaikovsky and Prokofiev to the virtuoso performances of Oistrakh and Rostropovich, Russia's musical outpouring has influenced and enriched the music of the world. Its artists have set standards that have been a benchmark for global excellence: its conductors and pianists, cellists and ballerinas have taken their training and dedication to countless orchestras and opera houses outside their native land. It is a tradition that has survived famine and revolution, civil war and foreign invasion, one that has flourished equally under tsarism and communism.

Today Russian music faces a crisis. At a time when Russia has never been so free and rarely offered such licence to its artists, its conservatoires and ballet schools are looking with despair at bankruptcy and closure, public indifference and official disengagement. The collapse of the Soviet Union has brought freedom: but state funding to find and nurture classical talent has faded away. Concerts halls are under new competition from Western entertainments that were once repressed. Discipline is no longer in fashion, nor the sacrifices necessary for the standards that were once the nation's pride.

Yet Russia still produces hundreds of young musicians whose potential talent is huge. Across the country some parents still skip to buy lessons and instruments for gifted young performers. Some teachers still carry on, despite poor pay, in an attempt to keep alive the musical arts. The ambitious

hope that dedication to an instrument will offer an escape from the boredom of the provinces or the poverty of ill-paid jobs.

One way out is recognition abroad. Curiously, this is now almost harder than in the most repressive days of communism. There is no longer an organised showcase of talent as provinces, towns and concert halls are left to fend for themselves. Western booking agents are confused and audiences disillusioned by the artistic collapse of former famous troupes. As we report today on page 40, however, at least one Russian philanthropic organisation, determined to keep the arts alive in these troubled times, is offering a lifeline to young performers. *New Names* scours the country for the prodigies whose excellence in singing, dancing, performing or painting deserves wider recognition, and uses its charitable funds to give them exposure abroad.

Three years ago a group of young Russians astonished an audience at St James's Palace with their bravura performances, and convinced patrons, including Prince Michael of Kent, that *New Names* deserved vigorous Western support to encourage this talent. This month five more young musicians, whose brilliance astounded our arts editor, will make their debut at the Barbican. They, and their art, should be helped. Huge sums are not needed; but Western patronage is a lifeline in the present turmoil. In time Russia will see that its own interests depend on supporting these ambassadors of its musical soul. For Russian music will, as before, be essential to Russian life — and our own.

GREEK TO US

A new dictionary for a language not dead but immortal

Although students of Ancient Greek have become a threatened minority, the raising of enough money to go ahead with the first new Greek-English dictionary for 110 years shows that the subject still exercises a powerful spell. The *Intermediate Greek Lexicon* is the dictionary that young classicists have used for their translation, verses and reading for pleasure since 1888. It is of a size to be kept in a desk or carried in a satchel. And it has done noble service. But no language, not even one whose death has been greatly exaggerated, stands still. And the dictionary has never been brought up to date with the progress that has been made in so many areas of Greek studies.

Menander and other lost texts have been found in sites such as the papyrus treasure dump at Oxyrhynchus. Mycenaean Greek has been recognised and translated in the baked tablets of Crete. Epigraphy has found syntax in stones. Textual critics have reinterpreted. Hardy perennials of the Victorian curriculum such as Aeschylus's fables are no longer studied. Modern students read a far wider range in time and topic than the classic Attic authors. *Daphnis and Chloe* and other Greek novels, Lucian and Plutarch have become fashionable.

Above all, lexicography has become greatly more scientific and rigorous since the days of its Victorian pioneers. The students' lexicon was quarried from the great *Greek-English Lexicon* of Dean Liddell and his fellow student at Oxford, Robert Scott. This great work was published in 1843, and is now in its ninth edition (1940). It has a kite's tail of later supplements. Hardy wrote a poem on the completion of "Liddell & Scott": "Even now, if people only knew/

My sinkings as we slowly drew/ Along through Kappa, Lambda, Mu..."

This revision of the *Intermediate Greek Lexicon* should be just the first step towards a fundamental overhaul of the big lexicon. This is but it is even more out of date than its offspring. Many entries are simply wrong. For example, it attributes to the Greek word that is translated in Latin as *narus* and in English as rare nonsensical meanings of "narrow" and "delicate". Its entries are organised in an inconsistent and inefficient way. "Ghostwords", misprints from a single inscription or text which would never be recognised by any Ancient Greek, stalk its pages. A committee of classicists at the British Academy has been considering the revision of the Greek lexicon for a generation, without coming to a conclusion.

But frequent supplements are no longer a solution. Instead of merely repeating the errors of previous dictionaries, scholars need to read the texts from scratch to work out what the words mean. An international effort is needed to settle Greek's business for the next century. After the publication of four fascicles, the big Greek-Spanish lexicon has reached the letter delta. It would not cost much to put this on CD-Rom with the addition of an English translation of the Spanish. The Americans have put "Liddell & Scott" and all Ancient Greek literature into electronic text.

Such a new Greek-English lexicon would cost millions and might take 50 years. But scholarship needs it. It would be an achievement of millennial significance, and indeed symbolism. For Greek is not a dead language — merely immortal.

Athenian solution to Lords reform

From Mr Peter Carty

Sir, My co-author Anthony Barnett and I much enjoyed your witty leading article of May 30 on our Demos paper, *The Athenian Solution*, which advances radical reform for the House of Lords.

However, in case your readers have been misled about our proposals, which centre on selection of members of a new upper chamber by lot (sortition), we are not proposing retention of aristocratic titles for members of a new Upper House. We would like to see a new breed of peers in Parliament (PPs), or people's peers.

Such PPs would not be subject to party whips, so the chances of manipulation by "cynical professional politicians and spin-doctors" would be limited. And we are not proposing that a reformed upper chamber should have legislative powers: we are saying that it should scrutinise new statutes and have a power of veto in very specific and rare circumstances.

So perhaps your readers can relax and actually look forward to a call to participate in direct democracy.

Yours faithfully,
PETER CARTY,
54 Godfrey House,
Bath Street, EC1V 9ES,
May 31.

From Dr P. A. Cartledge

Sir, Sortition, as the Ancient Athenians perceived, and as the earliest attested example of Western political theory enjoined, is the most democratic procedure available for selecting office-holders: it randomises selection, it maximises the chances of all eligible persons being selected, it encourages the largest number of those eligible to put their names forward for selection, and — not least — it presumes that all those eligible not only can but also should assume the relevant office.

Moreover, it can be adapted for use both in a system of direct democratic government, such as that of Ancient Athens, and in a modern representative system such as our own. The lot, and the provision of political pay, were the twin engines of Ancient Greek democracy. We have long been used to the latter. Introduction of the former is long overdue.

Yours faithfully,
PAUL CARTLEDGE
(Reader in Greek History),
Clare College,
Cambridge CB2 1TL,
paci001@cus.cam.ac.uk
June 1.

From Dr Adrian Seville

Sir, Your leader refers to the idea of drawing lots to select representatives for a reformed Upper House.

In 1576, the Doge of Genoa, Andrea Doria, instituted a local government reform whereby in each year the five retiring members of the ruling colleges would be replaced by five selected by drawing lots from the pool of candidates. The method chosen was the extraction of numbered balls from a single urn (known as *Il Seminario*) containing 120 in total, corresponding to the candidates, each identified by a particular number.

These chance events were ideal material for side bets: betting on the outcome of election to office was already common, but the new method gave some assurance of randomness and hence of fairness. Betting on the numbers became hugely popular and, with a later reduction in the number of candidates, was the origin of the form of the lottery still in use today in Italy and elsewhere in continental Europe: the extraction of five numbers from a total of 90. Indeed, it can be argued that this was also the forerunner of our own modern lottery.

It has to be said that Doria's reform had the unintentional effect of focusing attention on the process of betting rather than on the democratic choice of candidates. Still, times change...

Yours faithfully,
ADRIAN SEVILLE
(Academic Registrar),
The City University,
Northampton Square, EC1V 0HB,
June 1.

From Mr Martin Wainwright

Sir, Choosing Lords by lottery would have the merit defined by Alexis de Tocqueville (*Democracy in America*, 1835). In his study of the randomly chosen jury as a political rather than legal institution.

Referring to juries as a free school in citizenship which is always open, de Tocqueville described how jury service makes

all men feel that they have duties towards society and that they take a share in its government. The jury is both the most efficient way of establishing the people's rule and the most efficient way of teaching them how to rule.

This is one reason why the National Lottery Charities Board — appropriately — is about to choose a number of new members of its advisory panels in London and Yorkshire by the random system used to select juries. As the first extension of the system from the courts to quangoland, the experiment may be worth watching.

Yours faithfully,
MARTIN WAINWRIGHT
(Chair, Yorkshire and Humber Regional Advisory Panel,
National Lottery Charities Board),
Cragg Mount, Woodlands Drive,
Rawdon, Leeds LS19 6JZ,
wainmw@aol.com
May 30.

Apostasy law and religious freedom

From Mrs Diana Brown

Sir, Dr Suhaib Hasan states (letter, May 27) that "apostasy is treated as a crime against the Muslim State, exactly like treason". In the non-Muslim world, however, it is a basic human right to be able to change religion. It is repugnant to most of us that people should be locked into a religion by the choices made for them by their parents or community. What real value can there be in religious observance which is enforced on pain of death?

Christianity has, of course, maintained coercive practices in the past, but now, happily, even though religious conflict is still with us, no one in the West is subjected to forced conversion or trial for heresy.

Dr Hasan uses the unsavory examples of religion-inspired violence in Northern Ireland and Lebanon to suggest that Christians may have a violent and intolerant image to match the Western image of Islam. There is, however, a fundamental difference: Western law is secular and does not enshrine intolerance. And it is as a secular society, not in the name of God, that we curb the activities of murderers, rapists and child molesters; no particular religious belief is required to find such activities unacceptable.

Our non-Muslim society is, on the whole, happy to extend tolerance to Muslims in our midst, believing as we do in the rights of all individuals to choose freely any religion or none. Many Muslims do recognise the value of the concept of individual human rights from which they themselves can benefit. The denial of human rights embodied in the traditional Islamic doctrine on apostasy is a blot on Islam which cannot be ignored or glossed over.

Yours faithfully,
DIANA BROWN,
Route de Morrens,
CH-1037 Etagnières, Switzerland,
dianabrown@hotmail.com
June 1.

Palestinian Christians

From Professor Eric Moonman,
Vice-President of the
Board of Deputies of British Jews

Sir, The advertisement from the Palestinian Welfare Association (May 25) refers to the struggle for political and human rights of "Palestinians, Moslems and Christians alike". No one would underestimate the importance of such a struggle, although hopefully any future advertisement would also include Jewish rights.

However, the reference to Christians strikes an odd note. It has been pointed out to me quite forcibly over the past three years when attending the annual fest of Christians in Jerusalem (an international gathering of over 5,000 people) that they are anxious and distressed at the disregard for religious freedom paid by the Palestinian National Authority. I have had quoted to me many examples which have caused Christians con-

cern where they have come into contact with the PNA.

This was recently recognised by two American courts. Last month the US granted political asylum to two Palestinian Christians on the basis of systematic persecution of evangelical Christians by the PNA.

Attacks against the basic human rights and religious freedoms of Christians in areas under PNA control represent a direct contravention of the Oslo accords. Religionists and others concerned with religious freedom and human rights must vigorously oppose these disturbing violations. As such, the text of this advertisement is sadly a travesty of the facts.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC MOONMAN,
Vice-President,
The Board of Deputies of British Jews,
Commonwealth House,
1-19 New Oxford Street, WC1A 1NF,
May 29.

From the Reverend Father
B. S. Storey

Sir, How can Christians who accept Jesus as Son of God give the same respect to Muhammad?

Yours truly,
BRYAN STOREY,
Chy an Pronter, Trewarmet,
Tintagel, Cornwall PL34 0ET,
May 27.

From Mr Michael Plumble

Sir, I do not want as a neighbour someone who believes he should cut off my hands and my feet "on the opposite sides" if he thinks I have blasphemed against the Prophet Muhammad.

Yours intact — so far,
M. PLUMBE,
104 Drive Mansions, SW6 5JH,
May 28.

cern where they have come into contact with the PNA.

This was recently recognised by two American courts. Last month the US granted political asylum to two Palestinian Christians on the basis of systematic persecution of evangelical Christians by the PNA.

Attacks against the basic human rights and religious freedoms of Christians in areas under PNA control represent a direct contravention of the Oslo accords. Religionists and others concerned with religious freedom and human rights must vigorously oppose these disturbing violations. As such, the text of this advertisement is sadly a travesty of the facts.

Yours sincerely,
ERIC MOONMAN,
Vice-President,
The Board of Deputies of British Jews,
Commonwealth House,
1-19 New Oxford Street, WC1A 1NF,
May 29.

Wise humanity

From Mr Derek Davies

Sir, In your obituary of Donald Wise (May 23) you properly listed among his many virtues his journalistic talents, his style and wit and his courage as a soldier. Now we have buried him in Sussex, the home of his old regiment, and now the Emperor of Japan has left our shores. I think it is fitting we remember his humanity, his lack of bitterness and his capacity for forgiveness.

Although Donald, as you noted, suffered horrendously at the hands of the Japanese after his capture in Singapore, working on the infamous railway in Cambodia and Thailand, and seeing many of his comrades drop around him, he nursed no hatred or desire for revenge. As a correspondent of the *Far Eastern Economic Review*, he returned to Thailand on one of the annual Anglo-

Japanese get-togethers and shook the hands of his captors and guards, writing a memorable account of the pilgrimage.

As a colleague, I was always very grateful for the tact with which he referred to his wartime years — and so was my Japanese wife. Shortly before his death she had a long conversation with him in which he showed an admirable understanding of the cultural disciplines which induced Japanese to despise those who were captured or who surrendered.

It is perhaps too much to expect all the POWs to demonstrate such admirable Christian charity, even after 53 years.

Yours sincerely,
DEREK DAVIES
(Editor, *Far Eastern Economic Review*, 1964-91),
119 Colchester Court,
Old Brompton Road, SW5 0EB,
June 1.

Australian wine

From the Deputy Chairman of the
Australian Wine Export Council

Sir, Roger Maynard's report of May 26, headed "It's a nice little Aussie red — with a hint of Spain", may mislead your readers into thinking that some Australian wines on the UK market contain a portion of foreign wine.

In fact, less than 1.5 per cent of wine produced in Australia is imported foreign product. It is blended and packaged in wine boxes and aimed at the domestic market. No foreign wine is included in Australian wine sent to the EU. Australia has a strict regime of labelling laws in which any portion of foreign wine included in a blend must be clearly stated on the label (not just imported totals of 5 per cent or more, as stated in your report).

Yours sincerely,
IAN SUTTON,
Deputy Chairman,
Australian Wine Export Council,
Wine Industry House,
555 The Parade, Magill,
South Australia 5022.

Business letters, page 31

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046, e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk

Bridging a Welsh gap

From Professor D. G. Rhys

Sir, Can the first Severn road bridge, which you describe (report, May 30) as "one of the triumphs of British engineering", be the same one that provided such an appalling service for most of its life, and threatened to undermine the economic regeneration of South Wales?

True, the bridge, as Wales's window on the east was better than nothing; but it was not until the completion of the second bridge in recent years that the element of chance was removed from our trans-Severn travel plans.

As architecture the first bridge is a beauty and may be "a design classic of international importance"; but as a means of communication it was seriously flawed, to such an extent that, in effect, it had to be built twice. In short, the bridge's cost-effective design proved to be nothing of the sort.

What a contrast with Telford's (over-engineered?) Menai Suspension Bridge, which was built in the age of horse-drawn traffic yet copes with today's 38-tonne trucks.

Yours faithfully,
GAREL RHYS,
14 Maes-yr-Awel,
Radyr,
Cardiff CF4 8AN,
June 1.

A 'proper' use for redundant barns

From Mr Alan Morris

Sir, Matthew Parris ("Stately barns of England", May 29) advocates the conversion of redundant barns into dwellings. This is the last thing that should be done with them, as most planning authorities rightly judge.

A barn was a place of work and played an essential part in the rural employment structure over the many centuries when agriculture was almost the only source of jobs.

Once farm buildings are converted to residential use there is little or no chance of them ever making a contribution to local employment. The strong temptation to sell them off, and thus tear the heart out of the farm, is always present.

The occupants of such conversions are unlikely to work locally and their commuting adds to the strain on our overcrowded roads.

The proper usage for redundant farm buildings is to convert them into workshops or offices. They will then provide the farm with a reliable source of income and make a valuable contribution to local employment.

Most young people in rural areas have to move away in search of work. But nowadays much work is done at computer terminals, and they can be situated anywhere. Farms were always the main source of work in villages. Set up as work centres, they can become so again.

Yours,
ALAN MORRIS,
Pippingford Park,
Nutley, Sussex TN22 3HW,
May 29.

From the Chairman of the
Ancient Farm Buildings Trust Ltd

Sir, The nearest estimate we can make for the number of listed farm dwellings "at risk" is around 40,000 nationwide. An estimate to include barns, small cottages, outbuildings and shelters runs into hundreds of thousands.

These are part of the fabric and the wealth of this country and should be looked after for their own sake. They are not viable under present economic conditions. The only reasonable way to save them is to find new and compatible uses for them, including tourism and recreation.

In Britain 0.3 per cent of farming is organic, as opposed to 12 per cent to 25 per cent in continental countries, and we import 70 per cent of the organic food consumed here. It must be possible to revive some of these buildings by returning them to traditional methods of food production.

The Ancient Farm Buildings Trust is working on a plan to provide repair grants and the training of organic farmers and food producers. The aim is to complete one project at a time and combine production with countryside recreation.

Yours sincerely,
MARTIN GRIFFITHS,
Chairman,
Ancient Farm Buildings Trust Ltd,
Penrhos Court, Hereford HR4 9HY,
May 29.

Diana memorial

From Mr Christopher Armander

Sir, A horticultural shrine to Diana, Princess of Wales, would indeed be a monumental mistake, as Simon Jenkins argues in his article of May 30.

Let us rename Kensington Gardens as Diana's Kensington Gardens. Inexpensive, simple and uncontroversial, such a name change would keep her constantly in people's minds.

A statue in her memory would be splendid. If chosen by any committee of the great and the good, it would almost certainly provoke intense controversy, whoever the sculptor might be. If chosen freely by a committee of two, Prince William and Prince Harry, everyone would be delighted.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER ARMANDER,
6 Prince Edward Mansions,
Hereford Road, W2 4WB,
May 31.

Uses for economists

From Mr Eddie Kent

Sir, I would add to Philip Howard's entertaining account of economics and economists (May 29) the aphorism of my maths tutor was most fond: "An economist is someone who, if you have forgotten your telephone number, will estimate it for you."

Yours faithfully,
EDDIE KENT,
4 Mill Hill Road,
Norwich NR2 3DP,
eddie.kent@mcrl.poptel.org.uk
June 1.

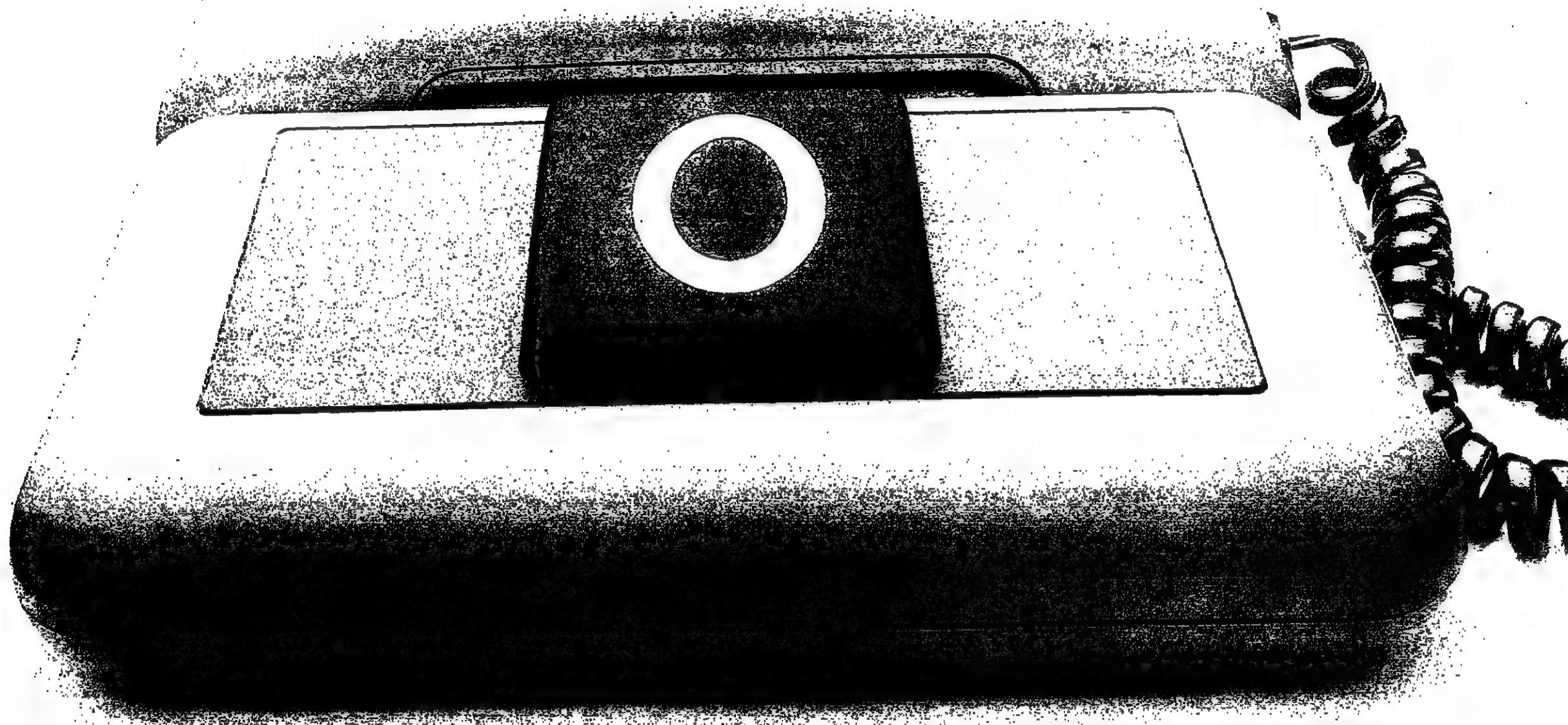
Off the scent

From Mr John R. Sharp

Sir, Claims about men's toiletries, detectable or otherwise (letters, May 22 and 30), should be treated with caution. A TV advertisement implies that men wearing a certain deodorant are prone to be ravished by women in lifts. Experience shows the claim to be entirely false.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. SHARP,
55 Twining Brook Road,
Cheadle Hulme,
Cheadle, Cheshire SK8 5RJ,
June 1.

Starting June 19 when you call Italy just add a zero.



What number is easier to remember than zero?

Starting on June 19, when you call Italy, just add a zero to the area code. So, for example, from that date on, if you want to call Milan, +39 2 5555555 will become +39 025555555.

Nothing could be simpler!



+39 0 255555555



The Italian telephone system has chosen this way to celebrate its entry into Europe, in line with the Community Directive on the liberalization of the telecommunications market.

From June 19 on, if you're calling the most beautiful country in the world, just remember the zero!

TELECOM
ITALIA

www.telecomitalia.it/numerazione

ITALY

FOCUS

As Italy prepares for a millennium jubilee, Richard Owen introduces a special report on a country that has found a new stability

The politics of optimism for the new dawn

Two years after the "historic shift to the left" that brought the centre-left Government of Professor Romano Prodi to power, Italy is poised to end the old millennium and enter the new one with an increasingly stable political system, a healthier economy — with an ambitious privatisation programme — and a reinvigorated pride in its cultural heritage.

At the same time, Signor Prodi and his team in the "Olive Tree" coalition have to reckon with a number of pitfalls along the path to the year 2000: their continuing dependence on the hard Left; the high unemployment on which trade union discontent feeds, especially in the poorer South; and above all the prospect that Italy's hard-won membership of the euro — the forthcoming European single currency — will exact a political price in welfare reforms that could strain the consensus of the centre-left coalition.

The Prodi coalition — which includes not only the ex-Communist Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) but also centrist parties and the left-wing remnants of the disgraced Christian Democrats — is also under strain over proposed constitutional reform, which has led senior leftwingers such as Walter Veltroni, the Deputy Prime Minister, and Luciano Violante, the Speaker, to talk recently of early elections. Signor Prodi might be tempted by early elections for a quite different reason: to capitalise on the wave of national pride that has followed Italy's achievement in qualifying for the euro, with Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Budget and Treasury Minister, bringing down inflation and the budget deficit through a deft combination of spending cuts, a one-off "euro tax" and some "creative accounting".

The coalition's secret weapon is that it has such veteran safe pairs of hands as Ciampi

and Lamberto Dini, the Foreign Minister (both former prime ministers) at its core. Signor Prodi himself — an economics professor who agreed to front the Olive Tree as a stopgap, but is turning into an astute, long-term leader — must be tempted to go to the polls to increase his majority so that he no longer has to rely in the Lower House on the votes of the hard-left Rifondazione Comunista, led by Fausto Bertinotti. But Signor Prodi has to bear in mind that the euphoria of the April 1996 elections has faded.

The fact that the Prodi Government is still in power is



Romano Prodi leads coalition shrewdly

observed that this was "bipolarism in action". On the other hand, the parliamentary bicameral commission on constitutional reform is dangerously bogged down, with its debates becoming entangled with arguments over whether the Italian judiciary is picking unfairly on Signor Berlusconi over corruption allegations.

The shape of reform is becoming clearer: Italy seems certain to opt for a popularly elected Presidency, whose powers would coexist with those of the Prime Minister. The tussle is over how the elected President's powers should be defined.

But Italy is looking ahead, not back. The Constitution may be further amended this year to allow the return to Italy of the male heirs of the exiled Royal Family, the Savoy. Ousted in the 1946 referendum, they would return as ordinary citizens, but their presence would symbolise the emergence in the new millennium of an Italy more at peace with itself.

For the immediate future, Signor Prodi will have to negotiate several more hurdles to ensure that he survives in power beyond next autumn: the pact he forged with Rifondazione Comunista only runs for a year.

The hard Left has several times refused to back Signor Prodi, forcing him to rely on

in itself a sign of change: this is no short-lived coalition of the kind that has plagued Italy since the Second World War.

The collapse of the Christian Democrats as a result of an anti-corruption drive of 1992 led to an overhaul of a system that had kept the Left out of power for decades because of fears of communism. The vacuum was at first filled by Silvio Berlusconi's new right-wing party Forza Italia, in alliance with the separatist Northern League led by Umberto Bossi.

But the Berlusconi interlude lasted only nine months, while the threat of northern separatism has receded. The Northern League fared badly in last month's local elections, as did the new and more moderate pro-autonomy Movimento del

Rome braced for pilgrim invasion

Many Romans fear that the forthcoming 13-month Vatican extravaganza of celebrations for the year 2000 jubilee will be used by the Roman Catholic Church to reinforce its influence and power in the capital.

They are also concerned that the sheer human weight of the celebrations will make life a daily inferno in a city already plagued by overcrowding and traffic jams.

According to Vatican estimates, between Christmas 1999 and January 2001, about 24 million pilgrims will descend on Rome. In May, the Vatican announced a total of 139 events, cultural, religious and musical, to celebrate the jubilee. More than 20 of these should involve more than 200,000 people, half a dozen up to 600,000. In January 2000, a rally of young people will bring together two million. Officials are still anxiously seeking an area which can hold an event of this scale. There will be processions, rallies, even a marathon, hailed as the greatest Rome has ever seen.

The programme may have filled fervent Catholics with pride, but it has also struck terror into the hearts of many Romans. Most are Catholics, but there is also a strong tradition of anti-clericalism. This was bred by centuries of familiarity with the Vatican and its power over Rome, and rooted in the *Risorgimento*, when the Pope opposed the creation of an Italian nation. Giovanni Negri, co-ordinator of the Lay Observatory on



Designer Angela Missoni (inset) and an outfit from her 1998-99 collection in Milan

Signor Berlusconi and the Right. More trouble looms with Rifondazione Comunista over the enlargement of Nato, over the proposed introduction of a 35-hour working week, and over cuts to Italy's pensions sector.

If "Il Professore" looks confident and relaxed it is because he calculates that the hard Left will, in the end, continue to back him for fear of letting the centre Right return to power. That, plus the discreet support of President Scalfaro and of leading industrialists such as Gianni Agnelli, the Fiat patriarch, may yet allow Signor Prodi to make history and complete his five-year term.

the jubilee, a watchdog association of intellectuals, declared after the events were announced: "It is worse than we feared. There will be chaos. It seems like a demonstration of power, coming after calls for changes to the abortion laws, demands for subsidies for Catholic schools and calls for political unity among Catholics. Rome is not Tehran. This amounts to an occupation."

According to a poll, 65 per cent of Romans are in favour of the jubilee celebrations. But this satisfaction is partly due to the fact that the jubilee has brought financing for a host of long-overdue renovation projects which will make Rome a more efficient city afterwards.

There are also dark mutterings that many projects will line the pockets of building entrepreneurs who are well connected with the Vatican or with the political establishment. Past experience, particularly in the wave of construction before the 1990 World Cup, would tend to support this view.

For the time being, most Romans are suffering daily irritation from hundreds of roadworks which make traffic even more difficult than usual. Last Saturday Romans had an antipasto of the jubilee celebrations with the arrival of about 250,000 members of Catholic groups from all over Italy.

Entire quarters of the city were closed to traffic. A similar event on a weekday would have more dramatic effects.

PAUL BOMPARD

New faces join fashion dynasty

When Gianni Versace was murdered, the Roman Catholic Church in Milan threw open the Gothic magnificence of the cathedral for the funeral. Paul Bompard writes. With the area cordoned off by police, live television coverage, the late Diana, Princess of Wales, weeping, Sting and Elton John performing, it was very close to a state funeral.

In fact some Italians were furious that the Church should show such deference for a man who hardly embodied the highest Catholic virtues and was simply a prince of fashion. For Italy, a land that has abolished all aristocratic titles, the fashion world is an ersatz aristocracy. It is an irresistible combination of prestige, glamour, creativity, and a gigantic

fashion industry analyst for *Il Sole 24 Ore*, the financial daily. With the economic crisis in the Far East, production costs there have become even lower. Also, the World Trade Organisation has decided, from 2005, to abolish the quotas that now limit exports from the Far East.

On the creative side of fashion, little has changed over the past few years. The top designers are still the same. Valentino made his name in the Sixties. Armani, Versace, Ferré and Fendi emerged during the Seventies; and Dolce & Gabbana, Romeo Gigli and the late Moschino, appeared in the Eighties.

The only important new name is Prada, an old family firm that has grown rapidly in recent years. This lack of

Behind the glitz is a vast money-making machine

new generation is worrying, says Daniela Petroff, fashion writer for Associated Press. Most of the top names are no longer doing their own designs, having design departments that use young designers from all over the world.

There is, however, hope in new generations of the established names. At Missoni, Angela Missoni, daughter of the founders of the house, is increasingly involved in design. Armani's niece, Silvana, has brought fresh input to her uncle's firm.

Of the top names, a few have become public companies or part of holding companies, but most of the fashion industry is still controlled by family groups. One reason is that fashion houses are very profitable. Many have earnings, after tax, of about 15 per cent of turnover. This tends to reflect, in business, the glamour that is so carefully cultivated on the runways.

THE RIGHT COMPANY FOR YOUR CHEMISTRY

BITOLEA

A dynamic Italian Company where innovative Know-how and processes development capability are joined with more than 25 years of experience in customer Service and Support

We offer our experience for:

CUSTOMER SYNTHESIS OF FINE CHEMICALS, INTERMEDIATES AND FINISHED PHARMACEUTICAL PRODUCTS

RECOVERY AND PURIFICATION BOTH SOLVENTS AND PRODUCTS BY EVAPORATION AND DISTILLATION

Our facilities:

REACTION PLANT

MULTIPURPOSE PLANTS WITH GLASS LINED REACTORS OF 500 TO 12,000 LT-TOTAL VOLUME 50,000 LT

MULTIPURPOSE PLANTS WITH STAINLESS STEEL REACTORS OF 500 TO 12,000 LT-TOTAL VOLUME 50,000 LT

EXTRACTORS WITH DIAPHRAGM FROM 1 TO 1.500m

EXTRACTORS WITH DIAPHRAGM FROM 1 TO 1.500m

EXTRACTORS WITH DIAPHRAGM FROM 1 TO 1.500m

EXTRACTORS WITH DIAPHRAGM FROM 1 TO 1.500m

EXTRACTORS WITH DIAPHRAGM FROM 1 TO 1.500m

EXTRACTORS WITH DIAPHRAGM FROM 1 TO 1.500m

EXTRACTORS WITH DIAPHRAGM FROM 1 TO 1.500m

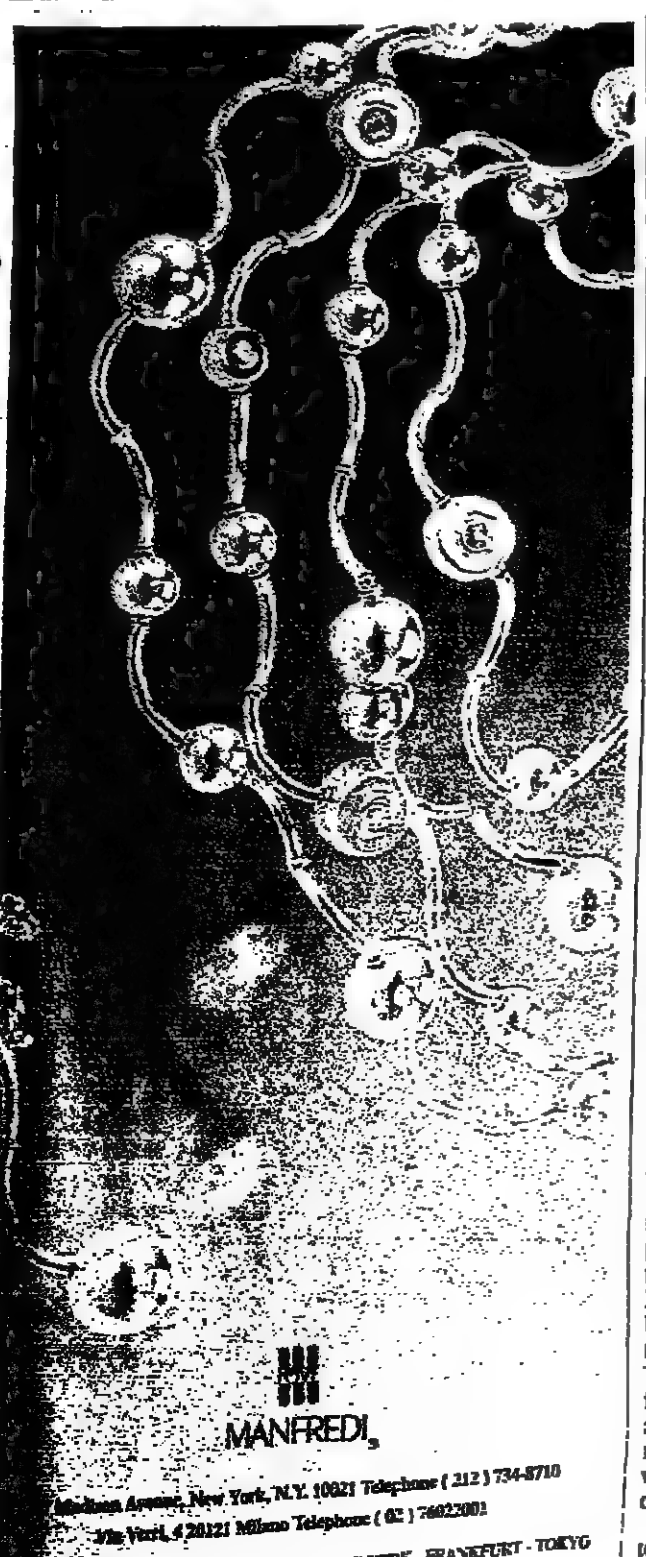
EXTRACTORS WITH DIAPHRAGM FROM 1 TO 1.500m

EXTRACTORS WITH DIAPHRAGM FROM 1 TO 1.500m

BITOLEA SPA

27015 Landriano (PV) Via Cirano 48/50 Tel. +39 382/612347 - 612319 Fax +39 382/612372

e-mail: bitolea@bitolea.com



MANFREDI

Manfredi, New York, N.Y. 10021 Telephone (212) 734-8710
Via Verdi, 4 20121 Milano Telephone (02) 76022001

VENEZIA - VERONA - PIACENZA - NEW YORK - FRANKFURT - TOKYO

The heart and soul of fine design

For four decades, Milan has proclaimed itself the style capital of the world. Paul Bompard reports

For 40 years Italy has dominated industrial design, and Milan remains the undisputed design capital of the world," says Guli Capella, the Spanish architect and design expert for the Italian architecture and design review, *Domus*.

There have been moments when other countries, the UK for instance, produced a crop of brilliant and innovative designs and designers. But from the Fifties until now, Italy has continued to reign supreme, and virtually unchallenged.

Today Italian manufacturers are using many foreign designers, and in some cases production has moved to countries that offer lower costs. But the heart and soul of contemporary industrial design remains firmly rooted in Milan and in northern Italy. There are numerous companies that produce and export all over the world — from office furniture to lighting and kitchenware, traditional fruits of this uniquely Italian combination of industry and aesthetics.

The Fifties and Sixties, when Italian drawing boards revolutionised the appearance of everything from coffee tables and lighting to typewriters and car bodies, are long past. But another revolution, within the world of design, has kept Italy firmly in the vanguard: industrial design has almost completely split off from architecture, and Italy has successfully assimilated a number of brilliant foreign designers who work for Italian manufacturers.

"Italian design began after the war. A new generation of architects built modern homes and offices and then felt a need to create the furniture to put inside them, because they didn't like what was in the shops," says Signor Capella. "This idea had its roots in the Bauhaus in the Twenties."

But Bauhaus was functionalism, a philosophy that reappeared in Germany after the war as the sternly rational "Gute Form". "In Italy, instead, pioneers such as Gio Ponti, Vico Magistretti, Marco Zanuso and Achille Castiglioni developed the school known as "Bel Design", Signor Capella says.

They created furniture, lights and door handles for their new buildings. Things had to work, of course, but style, elegance and the aesthetic concept had priority. It was a school of design which reflected the prevailing trends in architecture, a direct by-product of architectural thinking. Their slogan was "from a spoon to a city", the idea being that the architect should design everything.

Since then things have

spawned many of the most recent ground-breaking designs.

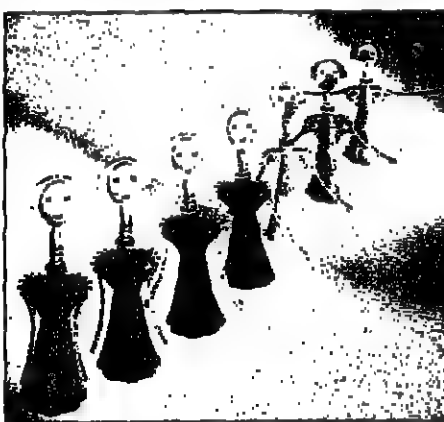
"In this latest phase there are two main trends," Signor Capella says. "The first is ideological, ecological, a little 'new age', using materials such as bamboo and new environment-friendly plastics. One designer, for instance, has a line of products called 'Kundalini' which are supposed to have been conceived while meditating."

"The second, instead, is very high-tech, using materials developed for military uses or space and aeronautical engineering. New light alloys, carbon fibre, new synthetics, and so on."

The star designers in this latest phase are Italians such as Giovanni, Citterio, Bartoloni, and foreigners such as Jasper Morrison from the UK, Mark Newson from Australia, Frenchman Philippe Stark spans both the Post-Modern and Minimalist schools. In contrast with the global trend towards "branding" the products of each firm and downplaying personalities, Italian companies continue to emphasise the role of the individual designer, which may explain why so many designers are eager to work in Italy.

Compared with the pioneers, some of the latest designs may seem unconvincing. But others, the kitchens designed by Citterio for Arclinea, immediately spring to mind, are beautiful and of stunning simplicity. Alongside this new generation of products, the best of those drawn by the pioneering architect-designers continue to be produced as "classics".

The names of Castiglioni, Magistretti, Ponti live on and are as well-known today as they were 30 years ago. In fact, original examples of their products, "first editions", are rapidly acquiring value as highly prized collector's items.



A parade of doll-like corkscrews designed by Alessandro Mendini

changed. Today's designers are not primarily architects, but people who developed directly as industrial designers. "From the late Seventies there was a reaction to the cold, architectural forms of the Bel Design," Signor Capella says. "People such as Sottsass, Mendini, Branzi, the Memphis group, began drawing objects that were more individualistic, more decorative, less functionalist. This was known as Post-Modern design."

The Post-Modern era lasted until the early Nineties, and in turn gave way to the current Minimalist school, which



Italian inspiration: a visitor admires the sculpture of Paolina by Canova in the restored Villa Borghese Museum in Rome

Polishing the treasures

Given the choice of any ministry he wanted after the historic 1996 elections, Italy's new left-wing Deputy Prime Minister Walter Veltroni amazed everyone by claiming the Culture portfolio.

But Signor Veltroni, a leading member of the ex-Communist Party of the Democratic Left (PDS) and a former Editor of *L'Unità*, had realised what many of his predecessors had undervalued — the high-profile potential of a sector of growing economic and political importance.

Culture is a sector dogged by a legacy of neglect, boredom, inept management and a disastrous lack of funding. Culture might be the first thing that comes into foreigners' minds when they plan their trip to Italy, but heritage

and the arts do not top the domestic list of priorities. The main problem is there is just too much — Italy has more than 100,000 historic churches, 3,500 museums, 2,100 archaeological sites and 4,000 historic gardens.

Two years ago, when 60 of the most important Italian monuments were surveyed, only two — the cathedrals at Siena and Salerno — were found to be in good shape. The Colosseum, St Mark's Square, the Roman Arena at Verona and Florence's Ponte Vecchio were all on the at-risk list.

One of the obvious solutions, private sponsorship, has been slow to take off. Despite generous funding from the Banco di Roma, the Colosseum remains shrouded in scaffolding and will not be ready for the millennium.

Even the appointment of a Pompeii "city manager" failed to encourage more than a small number of businesses to sponsor restoration of individual houses. But the private sector has its foot in the door. For the first time, museums are permitted in-house coffee shops, restaurants and bookshops.

In two years there has been little short of a revolution in the world of Italy's museums.

CULTURE

Signor Veltroni threw open the doors of museums long shut. Rome's Villa Borghese had been closed for 13 years since a ceiling fell down. Palazzo Altemps, acquired by the State to house the Ludovisi collection of classical sculpture, was in its fifteenth year of restoration. By setting a programme of specific opening dates, Signor Veltroni has proved that inertia can be reversed.

Italy's museums now have

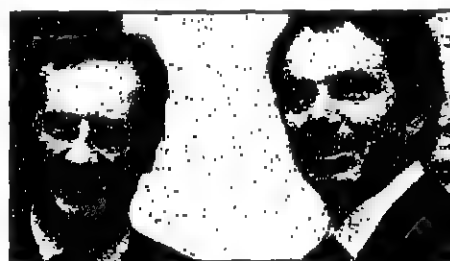
ing Italians aware of the extraordinary wealth of their heritage, and sensitive to the heavy responsibilities the custody of these treasures entails.

Popular imagination was struck, however, by the discovery of a fine Roman bronze statue of the Sicilian coast when fishermen brought up a 2nd-century Satyr with their catch. Signor Veltroni has persuaded the Navy to lend minesweepers to locate other wrecks in the classical shipping lanes around Italy.

The minister is also an ardent film fan and presided over Italy's triumph at the Cannes Film Festival when Roberto Benigni's *La Vita è Bella*, an oddball comedy set in Auschwitz, won the Grand Jury Prize. He has also instigated cut-price cinema seats in the afternoons to boost audiences, and has recently announced a series of screenings of classic films by the great masters — De Sica, Visconti, Fellini and Pasolini, as well as Hitchcock and John Huston.

Football is the other thing Italy probably does best — and Signor Veltroni is Minister for Sport. For the first time there are signs of cross-fertilisation, with plans for opera seasons and pop concerts held in the impressive 1960 Rome Olympic Stadium.

JULIA CROSSE



Vice-Premier Veltroni meets Tony Blair

the longest opening hours of any in Europe. Sixteen of the most important galleries, including the Uffizi, are open six days a week until 10pm. Others, such as the Royal Palace at Caserta or the National Gallery of Umbria, regularly open on Sundays until 10pm. Museum cafés, such as the Café des Arts at Rome's Modern Art Museum, are fast becoming the most fashionable places to eat.

The main problem that Signor Veltroni faces is mak-

Slaking a world thirst

WINE

ITALY is the world's largest wine exporter, selling about 15 million hectolitres abroad each year, *Cristina Gonzalez* writes. But some of the best wines are perhaps not as well-known in Britain as they deserve.

Over the past decade the more expensive wines suitable for ageing have been very successful, particularly on the international market," says Daniele Carilli, a wine specialist and deputy director of Italian food and wine magazine *Il Gambero Rosso*.

These, he says, include full-bodied wines such as Barolo and Barbaresco from Piedmont and Brunello di Montalcino from Tuscany. Amarone di Valpolicella, a red wine produced in the Veneto region, from slightly over-ripe grapes and which therefore has a strong alcohol content, has also been doing very well abroad.

Italy produces some great red wines. Most of them come from central or southern Italy, where the Mediterranean climate favours reds rather than whites, he says. "But there are some good whites, such as Greco di Tufo from the Campania region around Naples, produced from grape varieties that were originally introduced by the Ancient Greeks."

Other successful whites include Corvo, from Sicily, and Fontanafredda, from the Alghero Hills near Rome. For reds, Signor Carilli recommends Brunello, Barbaresco, Sagrantino, from 1995 and 1996, years to be snapped up as soon as they become available.

If your head is reeling after the wine, relief is at hand from the 252 different types of mineral water produced in Italy. Italians are the world's largest consumers of mineral water, quaffing 116 litres per head each year and spending an industry worth £1.4 billion.

Perhaps appropriately, the Welsh mineral water company TYNANT, which has achieved astonishing success in marketing its blueglass bottles of spring water, has been managed in recent years by an Italian, Pietro Biscaldi, from Genoa. The company last year opened a new bottling plant, increasing its capacity to 50 million bottles a year.

"We're expanding all the time," says Nicole Seibold, the sales and marketing co-ordinator for the company. "The bottles are very eye-catching, but the water has to be of good quality to keep the customers."

CAVALLO

Sperone

Il Risto del Corlino

LA NAZIONALE

IL GIORNINO

SPE

MONRIF

group



Rome
30th September
11th October

WORLD
EQUESTRIAN
GAMES
'98

ROMA

PROGRAMME				SUBSCRIPTIONS	
Wednesday 2/9				Dressage	Covered stand L. 300.000
Thursday 3/9				Uncovered stand L. 150.000	
Friday 4/9				Jumping	Covered stand L. 600.000
Saturday 5/9				Uncovered stand L. 300.000	
Sunday 6/9				Key Event	Stand 210.000
Monday 7/9					
Tuesday 8/9					
Wednesday 9/9					
Thursday 10/9					
Friday 11/9					
Saturday 12/9					
Sunday 13/9					

FLAMINIO STADIUM: located in Viale Maresciallo Piazzi - 00197 Roma

PRATONI DEL VIVARO: via Centro Equestre Polare, located in Via del Vetro km 45 - 00040 Rocca di Papa - Roma

TECNICA SANTA BARBARA: located in Strada, Padiglione del Santuario, 4 - 00052 Bracciano - Roma

ORGANIZATION

Via E. Mattei, 106 - 40138 Bologna - Italy - phone ++39-051-6837015 - Fax ++39-051-6837021

Email: cavallomagazine@cavallomag.it

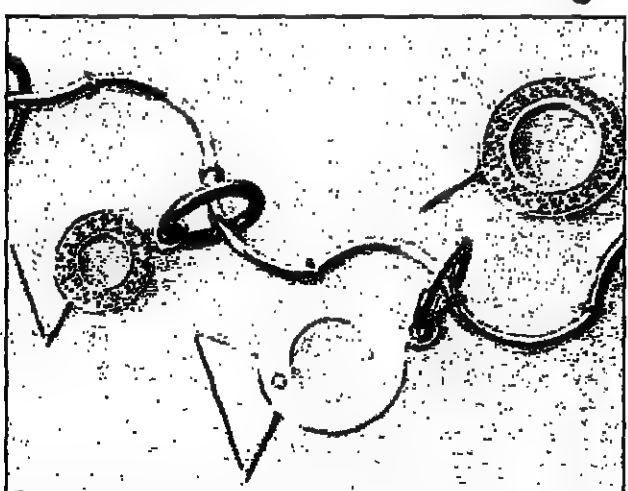
FORSALE EBC TICKETS

phone ++39-051-555504 - Fax ++39-051-555509 - http://www.ebcconsulting.com

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION INFORMATION

JERRY TRAVEL TOUR OPERATOR - phone ++39-06-8416920 - Fax ++39-06-8415565 - Email: wqj@jerrytravel.com

Gold charms help raise funds for children's charity



Gold charms for children designed by Giulio Manfredi

THE FASHION jeweller Giulio Manfredi is donating 10 per cent of the price of his series of charms for children to the Italian Committee of the United Nations Children's Fund (Unicef). John Phillips writes. The charms were designed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of the foundation of the United Nations.

Made of 18-carat white and yellow gold, the charms are in the shape of a symbol of childhood: a circle resting on a pyramid. They range in price from 80,000 lire (£28) to 1,900,000 lire (£678). "I like thinking of children in a field of flowers, not in a hospital or on the street," Signor Manfredi says. "But I live in the reality, my eyes are open and helping children means helping the world."

The Cassa di Risparmio di Parma and Piacenza bank has



Murky reveal

John Phillips examines Italy's economy and, right, looks at successful external investment in the disadvantaged deep South

Feelgood factor is expected to boost recovery

Italy's admission to the European economic and monetary union (EMU) is expected to have a significant "feelgood" impact on the economy as business confidence is bolstered by the knowledge that the country will not be left behind in the "second division" of European competitors.

But the main economic challenge to the Government of Professor Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, is to realise the centre-left coalition's electoral promise to reduce unemployment, particularly the sky-high jobless rates in the mezzogiorno, Italy's disadvantaged deep South.

The Government has promised Rifondazione Comunista, its left-wing ally, that it will introduce a 35-hour week to boost employment. But observers believe such a measure would only exacerbate inflexibility in the labour market.

The Italian economy is expected to perform solidly this year, although the impact of the crisis in the Far East has hurt Italian exporters in such sensitive areas as the fashion and machine-tool industries.

Lorenzo Stanca, the head of research at the Credito Italiano bank in Milan, predicts that GDP will grow between 2.2 and 2.3 per cent this year. That would be a respectable increase compared with the growth rate of 1.5 per cent achieved last year, but falls short of the high expectations at the start of this year.

"Our perception is less optimistic than that of many observers who at the start of the year were expecting GDP to rise by 2.8 to 3 per cent," he says. "But entry into EMU is certainly important. There has been an important adjustment of public accounts."

"Admission to EMU will have very little impact on the economy in 1998. But in the next five years it will serve to take us back to the centre stage of economic policy in Europe after we had practically slipped back to the level of North Africa."

Domestic demand recovered significantly last year, growing by about 2 per cent after the Government introduced car-purchase incentives that led to a huge surge in

ECONOMY

registrations. At the same time the Government has contained inflation, with prices increasing by less than 2 per cent for more than a year.

The motor industry incentives are to expire in July, however, and consumption is not expected to accelerate faster this year than last as long as unemployment remains high, which means that there are few new consumers.

Unemployment was registered at 12 per cent last year and is not likely to dip below 11.5 per cent by the end of 1998, Signor Stanca says. In the mezzogiorno it is as high as 30 per cent.

Signor Prodi's Government last year introduced measures to improve labour-market flexibility, including steps to encourage temporary work. However, in common with France and Germany, Italy remains dogged by trade

inflexibility. "It does look as if the Government is more determined than ever to push on with this," he said. "But the hope is that it never really materialises."

Mr Wattret believes that Italy will continue to lag behind the rate of recovery from recession achieved in the other so-called Euroland economies of the countries joining the EMU. Those countries expect GDP growth this year to average between 2.75 and 3 per cent.

Italy's lag is partly the aftermath of the huge fiscal squeeze that Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, the Treasury and Budget Minister, introduced in 1997 to meet the targets of Maastricht convergence.

Italy's muted recovery also was caused by interest rates being higher in the past than in other EMU countries. "What should help is a more stimulatory monetary policy," Mr Wattret says. "Interest rates have to be brought down by the end of the year. There will be a net monetary stimulus and investment spending should pick up. There should be a 'feelgood' effect on investment from EMU membership."

Mr Wattret also identifies the "quite dire" economic plight in the South as a big headache for the Government. "In the short term it looks as though the Government will invest some money in the mezzogiorno, but ploughing government money into unprofitable areas won't help," he says.

The situation in the South contrasts sharply with that in the North East, where highly efficient small firms, typically with from 10 to 20 employees in sectors such as electrical engineering and textiles, are expected to perform exceptionally well in the EMU. "They should be able to export to their hearts' content," Mr Wattret says.

Happily, Signor Prodi appears undaunted by the problems. "I see too much scepticism," he told MPs from his Olive Tree coalition. "The Government has a policy for the mezzogiorno and employment, and I say it will bear fruit. Give me time: the euro also appeared to be a mirage."

'In the next five years EMU will serve to take us back to the centre stage of economic policy in Europe'

Murky waters clear to reveal great profits

In a remarkable turnaround under the guidance of its new chief executive, Franco Bernabè, Italy's giant energy concern ENI has become the world's fifth most profitable publicly listed oil company after Royal Dutch Shell, Exxon, British Petroleum and Mobil.

Nearly half of ENI has been sold off in one of Italy's most successful privatisation programmes and another tranche soon will be offered to the public.

The company's current success recalls that of its early years when its founder, Enrico Mattei, became an Italian national hero by taking on Anglo-Saxon rivals, including the American oil majors he dubbed the Seven Sisters, and negotiating pioneering contracts with Russia, Libya and Iran. In 1962, however, Mattei died in a mysterious air crash which Italian prosecutors now say was sabotage, perhaps carried out by the Cosa Nostra.

For three decades after his death, the company never fully recovered a comparable sense of direction. By 1993 its image as a mismanaged, loss-making and corrupt public enterprise reached its lowest ebb when the former chairman, Gabriele Cagliari, committed suicide by suffocating himself with a plastic bag in prison after being arrested on charges of paying huge bribes to the Socialist Party.

John Phillips on the man behind ENI's remarkable turnaround

ENERGY

80 countries now stretches to China, Croatia and Kazakhstan as well as its traditional power bases in West and North Africa and Italy itself.

Such success inevitably creates jealousy and some commentators have described the softly-spoken but tough Signor Bernabè as a "new Mattei" promoting a thinly-veiled brand of economic nationalism.

Earlier this year he was criticised when he called publicly for what he saw as the need to end sanctions against Libya, Iran and Iraq. Some foreign observers linked his statement to efforts by Italy to increase its sphere of influence in those oil-producing countries.

ENI is the largest foreign producer in Libya. The company has been negotiating for some time with the Libyan National Oil Company to conclude agreements for the sale of natural gas that is to be sent to Italian consumers through an underwater pipeline to be built between Libya and Italy. Production is scheduled to start in 2002.

Signor Bernabè's remarks coincided with a visit to Iran by Lamberto Dini, the Italian Foreign Minister, who in Tehran exonerated the Iranian Government of any further links to international terrorism. ENI also has a pending production sharing deal in Iraq.

that he was acting on his own initiative as an oil man and said sanctions were harmful for long-term relations of the West with those countries since their oil production was declining.

Whatever the case, Italian pundits have seen the Clinton Administration's decision to ease sanctions as a vindication of Signor Bernabè's policies. His credibility has been boosted also by his undertaking a reorganisation of ENI's six major operating units.

In the first main move last year the exploration and production subsidiary AGIP was merged into ENI itself. This was part of Signor Bernabè's policy of growing internationally mainly through expanded exploration and production.

In one of its most surprising operations, ENI managers are mulling over how to deal with huge reserves discovered in the Basilicata region of southern Italy.

The oilfields under 30 villages of the Val d'Agri, the upper part of a river valley running into the Italian inland, are believed to be one of the biggest oilfields discovered anywhere in the world in the past five years.

The discovery has excited the regional government of Basilicata, which wants ENI and its partners, including the British firm Enterprise Oil, to create 3,000 new jobs.

However, the days when politicians called the shots at ENI now are officially over. About 1,000 jobs are expected to be created for three years as wells are drilled. An oil-collection centre built and a pipeline laid to a refinery at the port of Taranto. Thereafter the number of jobs extracting oil in Basilicata could dwindle to as few as 150.



Carlo Azeglio Ciampi: the Treasury Minister introduced a huge fiscal squeeze last year



Volunteers dig for survivors at Sarno, one of the towns worst hit by recent mudslides

South offers enterprise opportunities

INVESTMENT

Several impressive examples of successful external investment in the south of Italy — the mezzogiorno — are showing the way to the Italian entrepreneurs who Romano Prodi, the Prime Minister, is convinced can be persuaded to take advantage of its low labour costs.

Among the pioneering investors is BAA (formerly the British Airports Authority), which has a 70 per cent holding in the Capodichino international airport at Naples.

The dramatic images of the disastrous mudslides in which hundreds of people died this spring underlined the parlous state of development and infrastructure in much of the Italian south. In Naples, there have been violent clashes in recent weeks between the police and groups of the long-term unemployed. The jobless make up 25.5 per cent of the workforce in the region.

More investment in the South from the North and abroad is needed urgently to heal the ills of Campania, Apulia, Calabria, Basilicata and Sicily. The flow of capital from the North has been curtailed this year following the tax squeeze imposed to meet the Maastricht targets.

The employers' federation, Confindustria, blames rigid national trade union contracts for the reluctance of many members to put money into the South. But there is growing evidence that such contracts are not adhered to in much of the mezzogiorno and Signor Prodi says unit labour costs there are the lowest in Europe, with the exception of Spain.

Another example of successful investment can be found at the industrial maritime complex at Gai Tauri. Once derided as an example of wasteful state investment in Calabria, Gai Tauri has now become the leading container port for the Mediterranean.

Then there is the ambitious 2,000 billion-lire scheme to transform the former Italcristal steelworks complex at Bagnoli on the Bay of Naples into a tourist and hotel complex to take advantage of the magnificent views of Vesuvius and the island of Capri.

Executives at Fiat, Italy's largest private company, are

proud of their car-producing plant at Melfi, which they opened four years ago. Some 8,500 people now work there in the construction of Fiat Puntos and the Lancia Y and in 20 subsidiary supplying companies. The plant generates 1,400 cars a day.

Other growth areas are the furniture firms that are springing up in Apulia and Basilicata and the food-processing companies producing tinned tomatoes in and around the ancient university town of Salerno.

Signor Prodi has promised to set up a special round-table convention between employers, unions, government representatives and the mayors of big southern cities to discuss tackling unemployment. Mayors such as Antonio Bassolino of Naples are in the forefront of demands that Rome take more notice of the South lest there be violent social unrest.

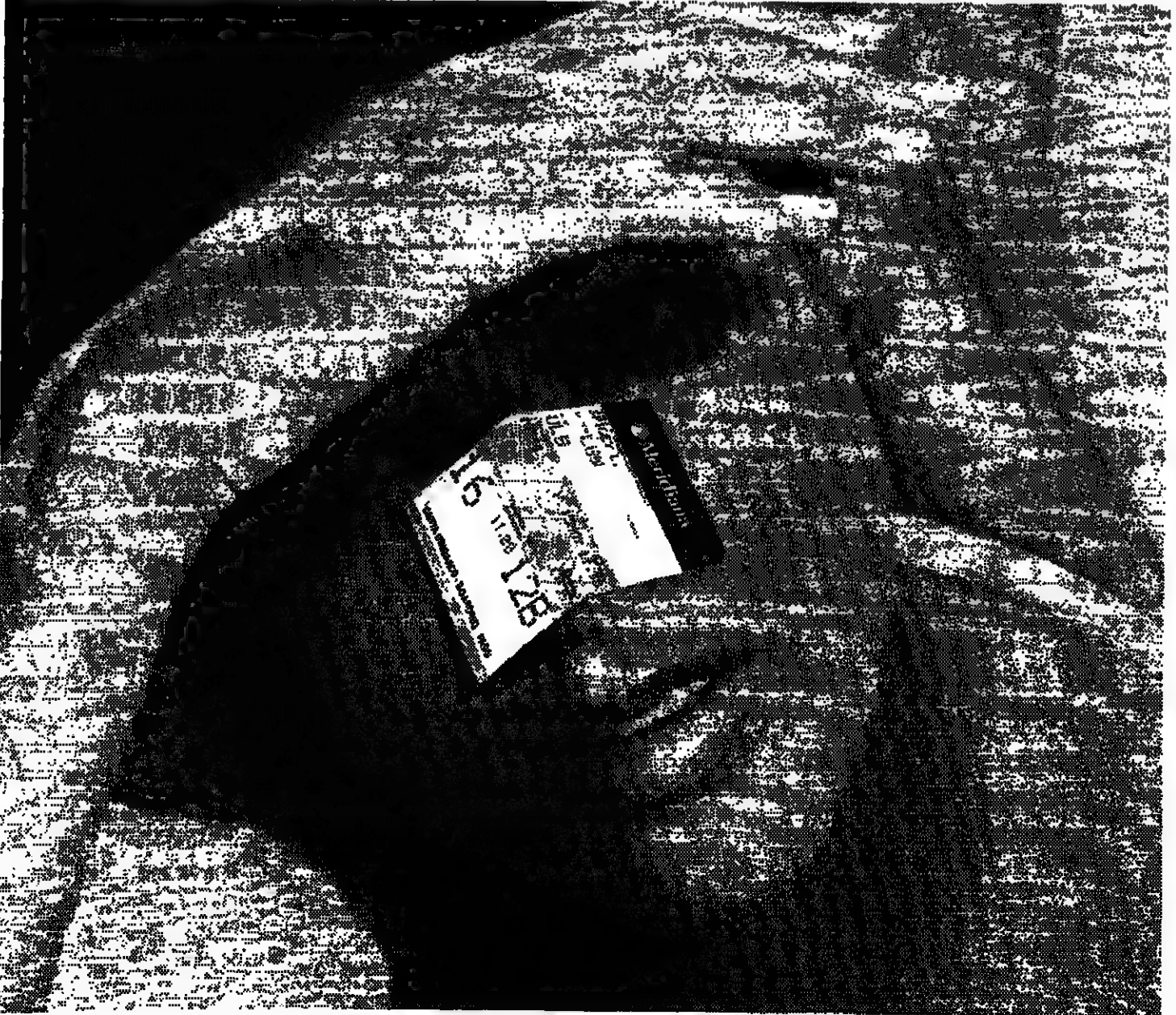
A department has been set up in the Treasury — Development Italy — designed to coordinate private and public sector investment for the South. The Government is to bolster 40 special areas through tax reductions and union pledges to reduce wage costs. Government economists have compared Development Italy to the Welsh Development Agency and hope that it will stem the flow of Italian companies moving to new operations in Wales and Ireland.

How much northern capital flows to the South also depends on eradicating organised crime. The presence of the Mafia inevitably deters investors who fear paying additional costs to protection rackets.

Neapolitan newspapers recently reported the curious case of Raffaele Colombino, a left-wing businessman at Pomigliano D'Arco near Naples, who put his engineering company up for sale out of frustration with criminal threats and bureaucracy, and issued an angry open letter to the head of the National Trade Union Federation.

"I asked Comrade Cofferati how I was to behave with a worker I wanted to dismiss who was the black sheep of the firm or another who threatened to kill me. The reply was 'Comrade Raffaele, wait, you cannot ruin their families.'"

Flights from London to Olbia in Sardinia. Meridiana: the smoothest deep tan airline.



Meridiana flies from: Amsterdam, Barcelona, Bergamo, Bologna, Cagliari, Catania, Firenze, Frankfurt, Genova, Milano, München, Napoli, Nice, Olbia, Palermo, Paris, Pisa, Roma, Torino, Venezia, Verona, Zürich. For information and booking see your travel agent or phone Meridiana on 0171/839-2222.

Your Private Airline. Meridiana

NEWS

MI5 agent barred from Diana show

The Attorney-General has stepped into the dispute over tonight's documentary about Diana, Princess of Wales, by telling broadcasters that they may not include contributions from David Shayler, a former MI5 officer.

The ITV programme, *Diana - The Secrets Behind The Crash*, will allege that the Princess was murdered and that James Hewitt, her former lover, was told by members of the Royal Family that it would be dangerous for him to continue seeing her. Pages 1, 19

Dorrell leads Left assault on Hague

Stephen Dorrell, the former minister who quit the Shadow Cabinet on Monday, yesterday put himself at the forefront of the Tory Left's challenge to William Hague over a European single currency. Pages 1, 18

Short's shift

Clare Short, the International Development Secretary, will today accuse the Red Cross of launching pointless fundraising appeals which cause unnecessary alarm. Page 2

Divorcee jailed

A British divorcee who hired two night club bouncers to murder her lover and business partner on of Tenerife was yesterday sentenced to 27 years in a Spanish prison. Page 3

Lottery profits rise

Camelot, the lottery organisers, unveiled large pay rises for its directors and record profits of £80.9 million yesterday. After-tax profits were up 16 per cent at £54.2 million. Page 4

Moore's medals

English football is preparing to raise £2.2 million to buy the medals of Bobby Moore, England's 1966 World Cup winning captain, from his former wife. Page 5

Flood warning rebuke

The Environment Agency made serious mistakes in the way it responded to severe flooding in mid-Wales and central and eastern England over Easter, an independent report says. Page 6

Failing schools threat

Up to 25 inadequate schools could be closed under tough measures announced by the Government yesterday. Page 8

How a good book saved my life

A set of religious books saved the life of a church aid worker shot during a gun attack on a shop in the Philippines. A bullet came to rest in the *Book of Mormon* after passing through four other volumes being carried in a backpack by Andrew Douglas-Dixon, who was injured in the arm, hand and foot. He said: "I now feel as though someone is looking out for me." Page 6

'No opera here'

London's newest theatre is a dancer's paradise. It has a gym and fitness centre, three rehearsal studios and a jacuzzi. What the rebuilt Sadler's Wells does not have, its promoters say, are facilities for grand opera. Page 9

Ingham 'conspiracy'

Sir Bernard Ingham, former press secretary to Margaret Thatcher, has accused government spin-doctors a conspiracy to destroy his reputation. Page 10

Air strike fear

Pakistan feared an Israeli air strike on its nuclear installations hours before it detonated the first of its six atomic tests last week, after an F16 was seen on reconnaissance over the country. Page 12

Gucci trial claim

The trial for murder of the former wife of Maurizio Gucci, the fashion empire heir, came alive when an alleged hitman said that she ordered the killing. Page 13

US envoy vacancy

The US Embassy in Ireland might remain empty for some time after the departure of Jean Kennedy Smith. President Clinton is taking a personal interest in the new appointment. Page 14

Quake wilderness

For three days Koi village awaited help after the earthquake in Afghanistan. It came yesterday, meagrely and quickly. Page 15



The Bee Gees — Barry, Robin and Maurice Gibb — unveiling plans for a world tour and their first UK concert in 10 years yesterday

BUSINESS

Setback for Siebe: Siebe is to cut 4,000 jobs in Europe in a £100 million restructuring. The news, along with disappointing figures, knocked £700 million off the engineering group's value. Page 27

Life disclosure: Sun Life of Canada, the mutual insurer that plans to float next year, filed an incorrect return to the Department of Trade and Industry in Britain for 1995, the year in which one of its senior executives lied in court. Page 27

Indonesian woes: The Indonesian economy is expected to contract by 10.1 per cent this year. Page 27

Mericals: The FTSE 100 rose 4.4 to 5,842.3. The pound rose .03 cents to \$1.6376 and .22 pence to DM2.9174. Page 30

SPORT

Tennis: Marcelo Rios, tournament favourite, lost his French Open quarter-final match against Carlos Moyá. Martina Hingis defeated Venus Williams. Pages 50, 52

Football: Romário, enfant terrible of Brazilian football, has been omitted from his country's World Cup squad for lack of fitness. Page 52

Rugby union: Fran Cotton is to be investigated by the Rugby Football Union allegedly for bringing the game into disrepute with his comments in the dispute between the clubs and union. Page 52

Triathlon: Britain's team for the Olympic Games may be dominated by Australian accents after four competitors with British connections switched allegiance. Page 46

ARTS

Young and talented: Moscow is home to a dazzling new generation of Russian teenage musical prodigies, and they are headed for London later this month. Page 40

Stepping out: Simon Keenlyside may be a baritone, but for his latest role, in Monteverdi's *Orfeo*, he has learnt to dance as well as sing. Page 40

Hollywood evangelist: Robert Duvall, the Oscar-winning actor, has turned his hand to writing and directing for his latest film, *The Apostle*. Page 41

Tale of two women: You do not need to be a confirmed misogynist to find pleasure in Doug Lucia's new play, *Love You, Too*, at the Bush in West London. Page 43

FEATURES

Play's the thing: Michael Frayn tells Valerie Grove why the National Theatre production of his new play means so much to him. Page 16

Strange shores: The expatriate who returned to England to find herself a foreigner. Page 16

Misfit mystery: Peter Wayne, a writer and aesthete, is also a recidivist, who has spent most of his life in jail. Is he a misfit or just bad? Jason Cowley finds out. Page 17

Land girls: Why an increasing number of young single women are investing in property. Page 17

Rest easy: How to rent space in a mausoleum. Page 39

THE WASHINGTON POST

The most persuasive argument for additional aid now is that Russia's new prime minister and cabinet, arguably the most pro-reform ever, should be given a chance. But if the IMF or the Group of Seven come up with additional loans, they must make clear that the aid is neither open-ended nor unconditional. As long as Russia knows that the West considers it too big to fail, its government won't take the painful steps necessary to succeed. — *The Washington Post*

ATHENS SOLUTION TO LORDS REFORM

Islamic doctrine; Palestinian Christians; redundant barns; Donald Wise tribute; Princess Diana memorial; Australian wines; Severn bridge; men's toiletries. Page 19

TV LISTINGS

Preview: Calista Flockhart plays a confident young lawyer uncertain about her private life. *Ally McBeal* (Channel 4, 10pm) **Review:** A case of injustice? Joe Joseph weighs the evidence. Pages 50, 51

OPINION

Brown in the black: The dilemma facing Gordon Brown is how to run the economy responsibly without losing too much favour on the Left. Page 19

Names to note: Russia's musical outpouring has influenced and enriched the music of the world. Today Russian music faces a crisis, and should be helped. Huge sums are not needed; but Western patronage is a lifeline in the present turmoil. Page 19

Greek to us: The raising of enough money to go ahead with the first new Greek-English dictionary for 110 years shows that the subject still exercises a powerful spell. Page 19

COLUMNS

SIMON JENKINS: There is an odd story doing the rounds, that Tony Blair is not quite what he seems. Each night he sneaks up to the Downing Street attic, takes out a wig and a handbag and kneels in contemplation before a little wax lady. Page 18

ALAN COREN: My fingers, this morning, tremble as they type. Today's may well be their final job. My fingers may be facing a future of solitaire, crochet, and running down situations vacant columns. Page 18

ANTHONY BARNETT: Inspired by the inventiveness of classical Athens, a colleague and I have proposed a representative Upper House selected by lot like a jury (while retaining some appointed "People's Peers"). Page 18

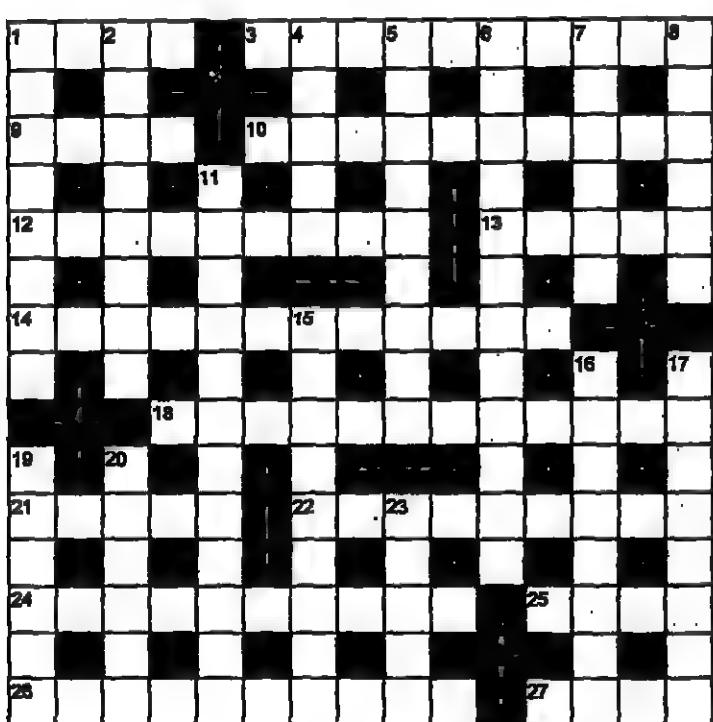
CULTURAL WATCH

Professor Alan Milne, political philosopher; Philip O'Connor, writer; Mr Justice Michael Kempster, Hong Kong appeal court judge. Page 21

CULTURAL WATCH

Athenian solution to Lords reform; Islamic doctrine; Palestinian Christians; redundant barns; Donald Wise tribute; Princess Diana memorial; Australian wines; Severn bridge; men's toiletries. Page 19

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,808



- ACROSS**
- Senile and repetitive state (4).
 - Witchcraft? (10).
 - How Beethoven finished a set of four notes (4).
 - A novel school of thought (10).
 - The person who should get the named post (9).
 - Departs before spring to lodge (5).
 - Out of sight, out of mind (5,3,4).
 - A well-intentioned investigator? (5,7).
 - Primate's ring sounded metallic (5).
 - Confused, lost again in thoughts of the old days (9).
 - Official in Foreign Office about to divulge secrets (10).
 - Thin type with very small diameter (4).
- DOWN**
- Dogs race wildly round the churchyard (4,4).
 - Magnificence of reconstructed garden city of antiquity (9).
 - Rocks and rolls in lively dances (5).
 - Native reserve? (6,3).
 - European bringing about five crazy Canadians in (12).
 - I'd about to stay in the same place (6).
 - Light linked to switch (6).
 - Finished speech in Latin, perhaps (4,5).
 - Lead racket that may lead to some apprehension (3,3,3).
 - A spot of comfort for the local visitor (8).
 - I'd turned up in a sort of orange fabric (8).
 - Globe covered with firm ice (6).
 - Just some of a brick structure (6).
 - Largely unstable old military headgear (5).

Solution to Puzzle No 20807

ALICESPRINGS
LEDS
SETH
FESTIVAL
STRETCH
HAT
STEALTHY
PACIFIST
HRA
OSAKA
NTR
ACTION

Times Two Crossword, page 52

The qualifying puzzle for this year's crossword championship will appear on Thursday, June 11

LATEST ROAD AND WEATHER CONDITIONS

UK Weather - All regions 0336 444 910
UK Roads - All regions 0336 401 410
Inside FGS 0336 401 246
Roads and Link Roads 0336 401 247
National Motorways 0336 401 248
Commercial Europe 0336 401 249
Channel crossing 0336 401 250
Holidays to Heathrow & Gatwick airports 0336 407 808

Weather by Fax

Dial 0336 followed by area number from your fax
West Country 416 336 N Ireland 416 341
Wales 416 336 London 416 342
Midlands 416 336 Northern Ireland 416 343
N Wales 416 336 Scotland 416 344
N York 416 336
London 416 336
Fax (other pages) 0336 412 116

World City Weather

183 destinations world wide
6 day forecast
by Phone dial 0336 412 116
by Fax (other pages) 0336 412 116

Met Office

Europe Country by Country 0336 401 888
European Air Lines 0336 401 889
French Motorways 0336 401 890
European Information 0336 401 891
Channel Islands 0336 401 892
Channel Islands 0336 401 893

AA Car reports by fax

See and send car reports from the AA members of 195 cars
Dial from your fax handset, you may have to set to profile receive mode
AA 0336 416 396
Accidents, breakdowns, road closures, etc.
Call us charged at 10p per minute to all areas.

Sun rises

Sun rises: 4.48 am Sun sets: 9.10 pm
Moon sets: 2.10 am Moon rises: 12.02 pm
Full moon June 10
London 9.10 pm to 4.47 am
Bristol 9.20 pm to 4.57 am
Edinburgh 9.40 pm to 4.33 am
Manchester 9.50 pm to 4.44 am
Perthshire 9.55 pm to 4.40 am

Sun rises

Sun rises: 4.48 am Sun sets: 9.10 pm
Moon sets: 2.10 am Moon rises: 12.02 pm
Full moon June 10
London 9.10 pm to 4.47 am
Bristol 9.20 pm to 4.57 am
Edinburgh 9.40 pm to 4.33 am
Manchester 9.50 pm to 4.44 am
Perthshire 9.55 pm to 4.40 am

Sun rises

Sun rises: 4.48 am Sun sets: 9.10 pm
Moon sets: 2.10 am Moon rises: 12.02 pm
Full moon June 10
London 9.10 pm to 4.47 am
Bristol 9.20 pm to 4.57 am
Edinburgh 9.40 pm to 4.33 am
Manchester 9.50 pm to 4.44 am
Perthshire 9.55 pm to 4.40 am

Sun rises

Sun rises: 4.48 am Sun sets: 9.10 pm
Moon sets: 2.10 am Moon rises: 12.02 pm
Full moon June 10
London 9.10 pm to 4.47 am
Bristol 9.20 pm to 4.57 am
Edinburgh 9.40 pm to 4.33 am
Manchester 9.50 pm to 4.44 am
Perthshire 9.55 pm to 4.40 am

Sun rises

Sun rises: 4.48 am Sun sets: 9.10 pm
Moon sets: 2.10 am Moon rises: 12.02 pm
Full moon June 10
London 9.10 pm to 4.47 am
Bristol 9.20 pm to 4.57 am
Edinburgh 9.40 pm to 4.33 am
Manchester 9.50 pm to 4.44 am
Perthshire 9.55 pm to 4.40 am

Sun rises

Sun rises: 4.48 am Sun sets: 9.10 pm
Moon sets: 2.10 am Moon rises: 12.02 pm
Full moon June 10
London 9.10 pm to 4.47 am
Bristol 9.20 pm to 4.57 am
Edinburgh 9.40 pm to 4.33 am
Manchester 9.50 pm to 4.44 am
Perthshire 9.55 pm to 4.40 am

GENERAL: much of England and Wales

will have sunny spells and showers, some of the showers prolonged in central and eastern parts this afternoon. Northern Ireland will have mainly cloudy with some heavy rain.

Scotland cool, with showers mainly confined to the mountains; cloudy towards North Sea, but western areas sunnier. N Ireland fairly bright but showers later.

London, SE England, E Angles: some sunshine but heavy showers by afternoon, esp inland. Mod SW wind. Max 18C (65F).

Central & SW England, Channel Isles: sunny spells this morning, but showers will develop by afternoon, locally heavy. Moderate SW breeze. Max 18C (64F).

Midlands, S Wales: bright spells and showers, some heavy or prolonged later. Moderate SW wind. Max 17C (63F).

E, NW, Cent N, NE England, N Wales, Lakes: cool and cloudy with spells of rain.

some heavy at first, but more showery later. Light north to NE wind. Max 14C (57F).

LI, NI, N Ireland: very sunny spells but cloud building to bring some showers. Light NE wind. Max 15C (59F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Grampians, Shetland: cool, rather cloudy, showers mainly confined to higher ground. Moderate NE wind. Max 13C (55F).

SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: cool, mainly dry, some sunshine, esp on W coasts. Mod NE wind. Max 14C (57F).

Outlook: most places drier, brighter and warmer tomorrow although North Sea coasts cool and cloudy. Scotland will still be cool with showers on Friday.

GENERAL: much of England and Wales

will have sunny spells and showers, some of the showers prolonged in central and eastern parts this afternoon. Northern Ireland will have mainly cloudy with some heavy rain.

Scotland cool, with showers mainly confined to the mountains; cloudy towards North Sea, but western areas sunnier. N Ireland fairly bright but showers later.

London, SE England, E Angles: some sunshine but heavy showers by afternoon, esp inland. Mod SW wind. Max 18C (65F).

Central & SW England, Channel Isles: sunny spells this morning, but showers will develop by afternoon, locally heavy. Moderate SW breeze. Max 18C (64F).

Midlands, S Wales: bright spells and showers, some heavy or prolonged later. Moderate SW wind. Max 17C (63F).

E, NW, Cent N, NE England, N Wales, Lakes: cool and cloudy with spells of rain.

some heavy at first, but more showery later. Light north to NE wind. Max 14C (57F).

LI, NI, N Ireland: very sunny spells but cloud building to bring some showers. Light NE wind. Max 15C (59F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Grampians, Shetland: cool, rather cloudy, showers mainly confined to higher ground. Moderate NE wind. Max 13C (55F).

SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: cool, mainly dry, some sunshine, esp on W coasts. Mod NE wind. Max 14C (57F).

Outlook: most places drier, brighter and warmer tomorrow although North Sea coasts cool and cloudy. Scotland will still be cool with showers on Friday.

GENERAL: much of England and Wales

will have sunny spells and showers, some of the showers prolonged in central and eastern parts this afternoon. Northern Ireland will have mainly cloudy with some heavy rain.

Scotland cool, with showers mainly confined to the mountains; cloudy towards North Sea, but western areas sunnier. N Ireland fairly bright but showers later.

London, SE England, E Angles: some sunshine but heavy showers by afternoon, esp inland. Mod SW wind. Max 18C (65F).

Central & SW England, Channel Isles: sunny spells this morning, but showers will develop by afternoon, locally heavy. Moderate SW breeze. Max 18C (64F).

Midlands, S Wales: bright spells and showers, some heavy or prolonged later. Moderate SW wind. Max 17C (63F).

E, NW, Cent N, NE England, N Wales, Lakes: cool and cloudy with spells of rain.

some heavy at first, but more showery later. Light north to NE wind. Max 14C (57F).

LI, NI, N Ireland: very sunny spells but cloud building to bring some showers. Light NE wind. Max 15C (59F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Grampians, Shetland: cool, rather cloudy, showers mainly confined to higher ground. Moderate NE wind. Max 13C (55F).

SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: cool, mainly dry, some sunshine, esp on W coasts. Mod NE wind. Max 14C (57F).

Outlook: most places drier, brighter and warmer tomorrow although North Sea coasts cool and cloudy. Scotland will still be cool with showers on Friday.

GENERAL: much of England and Wales

will have sunny spells and showers, some of the showers prolonged in central and eastern parts this afternoon. Northern Ireland will have mainly cloudy with some heavy rain.

Scotland cool, with showers mainly confined to the mountains; cloudy towards North Sea, but western areas sunnier. N Ireland fairly bright but showers later.

London, SE England, E Angles: some sunshine but heavy showers by afternoon, esp inland. Mod SW wind. Max 18C (65F).

Central & SW England, Channel Isles: sunny spells this morning, but showers will develop by afternoon, locally heavy. Moderate SW breeze. Max 18C (64F).

Midlands, S Wales: bright spells and showers, some heavy or prolonged later. Moderate SW wind. Max 17C (63F).

E, NW, Cent N, NE England, N Wales, Lakes: cool and cloudy with spells of rain.

some heavy at first, but more showery later. Light north to NE wind. Max 14C (57F).

LI, NI, N Ireland: very sunny spells but cloud building to bring some showers. Light NE wind. Max 15C (59F).

Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee, Aberdeen, Cent Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Grampians, Shetland: cool, rather cloudy, showers mainly confined to higher ground. Moderate NE wind. Max 13C (55F).

SW, NW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll: cool, mainly dry, some sunshine, esp on W coasts. Mod NE wind. Max 14C (57F).

Outlook: most places drier, brighter and warmer tomorrow although North Sea coasts cool and cloudy. Scotland will still be cool with showers on Friday.

NEWSPAPERS SUPPORT RECYCLING

Recycled paper made up of 41.4% of the raw material for UK newspapers in the last year of 1997

Cats & Dogs

For anything from pet shops to dog kennels, don't ask around - ask Scoot. Call free, 24 hours a day.

SCOOT

0800 192192
www.scoot.co.uk

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3 1998

THE TIMES

2

INSIDE SECTION

2
TODAY

BUSINESS

Fashion producers face risk of falling apart at the seams
PAGE 31

ARTS

Why Robert Duvall put his money where his movie is
PAGES 40-42

SPORT

Rios down and out in Paris
PAGES 44-52

TELEVISION AND RADIO
PAGES 50, 51

BUSINESS EDITOR Patience Wheatcroft

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3 1998

Sun Life of Canada filed incorrect DTI return

BY GAVIN LUMSDEN

SUN LIFE of Canada, the mutual insurer that plans to float next year, filed an incorrect return with the Department of Trade and Industry in Britain for 1995, the same year one of its senior executives lied in a Canadian court.

In notes to its 1996 returns, which the insurer filed with the DTI last September, it admitted to having understated its liabilities in the previous year by £124.4 million. In

order to correct this, it recorded a £30.5 million fall in the value of its non-linked assets in 1996, although they had actually increased by £93.9 million.

Donald Stewart, chief executive, who was chief actuary in 1995, has now said the 1995 year was the first the company had used British accounting standards. In the process it had "misclassified" a bank loan connected with its acquisition of the UK subsidiary of Confederation Life, the rival Canadian insurer.

Mr Stewart denied there was any connec-

tion with the case of Robert Sharkey, the insurer's chief actuary, who resigned last month after a judge in Ontario ruled that he had given fraudulent evidence in a test case three years ago.

Mr Sharkey, vice-president of investments at the time, testified that mortgages held in three of the insurer's funds were long-term to match liabilities to policyholders. However, about £673 million (£284 million) of £31.28 billion were subsequently found to be of under ten years' maturity.

Mr Stewart denied the company ever had a "mismatch" between assets and liabilities in any of its markets. "This is a very strongly capitalised company," he said.

However, the company could be forced to part with more of this capital than it would like if the controversy over Mr Sharkey gathers pace.

The disclosure threatens to undermine its attempts to settle with 400,000 policyholders over the "vanishing premium" affair. The company has offered a £50m million

settlement to investors who were sold policies on the basis that they would only have to pay premiums for a short while. When stock market conditions prevented this investors launched class actions in Canada and the US.

SLOC had hoped to get its offer approved in the Ontario High Court on Friday. However, a rebel group of policyholders argued that the offer should be re-examined. One source said the final settlement could end up being ten times its current offer.

BUSINESS TODAY

STOCK MARKET MOVES

FTSE 100	5942.3	(+4.4)
Yield	4.70	
FTSE All share	2790.59	(+1.54)
Nikkei	15554.45	(+233.42)
Dow Jones	8892.46	(-23.51)
S&P Composite	1081.36	(+0.32)

US RATE

Federal Funds	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Long Bond	104 1/4%	(104 1/4%)
Yield	5.80%	(5.78%)

LONDON MONEY

3-mth interbank	7 1/4%	(7 1/4%)
Life long gilt	110	(110 1/4)

STERLING

New York	1.6385*	(1.6405)
London	1.6373	(1.6372)
DM	1.6312	(1.6314)
FF	5.7795	(5.7727)
Sfr	2.4250	(2.4183)
Yen	227.50	(228.55)
£ Index	104.0	(104.0)

DOLLAR

London	1.7795*	(1.7790)
DM	8.9690*	(8.9645)
Sfr	1.4707*	(1.4703)
Yen	126.52*	(126.55)
£ Index	111.8	(111.8)

Tokyo close Yen 138.17

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent 15-day (Aug)	\$14.58	(\$14.55)
--------------------	---------	-----------

GOLD

London close	\$281.05	(\$288.75)
--------------	----------	------------

* denotes midday trading price

Thames deal

A £225 million contract to manage water supplies in Jakarta between Thames Water and the Indonesian Government has been renegotiated.
Page 23

MEPC payout

MEPC has increased by a third the size of its planned payback to shareholders. The property company will return £400 million after rapid progress in the sale of its overseas assets.
Page 29

Siebe cuts 4,000 jobs as part of a £100m shake-up

BY ADAM JONES

SIEBE, one of the most successful companies of the 1990s, yesterday said it was cutting 4,000 jobs in Europe as part of a £100 million restructuring. The news, along with disappointing figures, led the City to knock £700 million off the engineering group's market value.

The cuts are part of a global efficiency drive that will see 4,000 jobs disappear in the US and Europe by the year 2000 — a tenth of the size being in the UK. Siebe said yesterday that 2,000 posts will be abolished and 2,000 relocated to developing countries such as China and Mexico.

Allen Yurko, chief executive, said Siebe could save about 80 per cent on salaries by moving jobs from the developed world. Siebe has moved 1,400 jobs already — a quarter of its workforce — to low-cost countries where it costs less than £2 an hour for a typical worker.

The new round of restructuring will cost £100 million but Siebe, which makes controls for a range of items such as heaters, cookers and factories, claims it will boost profits by £60 million a year.

The job losses were announced with Siebe's annual results yesterday. Although profits before tax rose 14.7 per cent to £486.4 million, these were regarded as a disappointment in the City and the shares, which had risen from

945p last June, slumped from £15.03 to £13.60.

A wave of acquisitions in the past year, including APV, Coleman Safety & Security and Wonderware, ensured that overall sales rose 22.1 per cent to £3.67 billion. The acceptance deadline for Siebe's £423 million takeover of Eurotherm, the UK controls, drives and recorders group, has been extended to June 9.

Earnings per share rose 14.6 per cent to 62p and a final dividend of 16.2p (14.7p) will be paid. Plans for a bonus share issue that will effectively be a four-for-one share split will be put to investors.

Sir Colin Marshall, the outgoing president of the CBI, will become Siebe chairman later this month. He is currently deputy chairman, as well as being chairman of British Airways, chairman of Incheape and deputy chairman of British Telecom. Mr Yurko denied a suggestion that Sir Colin may be spreading himself too thinly, saying he would spend "enough" time attending to Siebe duties.

Mr Yurko also insisted that Siebe's dispute with Nemco-Lambda, a Japanese group in which it has a 50.6 per cent stake, was not a culture clash between East and West.

Rikihito Madarame, the founder and chairman of Nemco-Lambda, claims that Siebe is attempting to impose a Western-style hierarchical structure. Siebe says Mr Madarame faces an allegation of misconduct. Mr Yurko said Japanese nationals would continue to run the business if it won a battle to oust Mr Madarame and his supporters.

Siebe yesterday filed an application with the Tokyo district court for a temporary restraining order to block a capital restructuring proposed by Nemco-Lambda that would have diluted Siebe's stake to about 38.4 per cent, strengthening the rebels' hand.



A GROUP of investors will today requisition an extraordinary general meeting to oust the management of Tandem Group, the long-making bicycle manufacturer, and turn it into a group owning and managing racecourses (Jason Nisbet writes).

Maurice Cowan, a solicitor from

Leeds, John Sanderson and Harry Turpin together hold 12.4 per cent of Tandem's shares. Today a notice will go out to Tandem's other shareholders calling a meeting before July 1.

The trio are proposing that they replace on the Tandem board Robin Bromley-Martin, the chief executive,

Keith Hamer and Govert Brasser, two non-executive directors.

Mr Cowan said yesterday the new strategy would be to sell Tandem's bicycle-making businesses — which have failed to ride the boom in mountain bikes. Instead, the company will manage and own racecourses in

the north of England. Mr Sanderson, who used to run York racecourse, intends to inject his business, which runs Doncaster, pictured above, Redcar and Caterick and to buy other courses.

Tandem's board was meeting last night and unavailable for comment.

Vickers tries to drive off R-R owners

BY ADAM JONES

VICKERS tried to shut the door on an eleven-hour bid for Rolls-Royce Motor Cars by a consortium of owners yesterday by warning shareholders that a new offer at this stage could delay the sale completion until September or October.

Michael Shrimpton, a barrister acting as spokesman for the owners, said yesterday they were putting the final touches to an offer, despite the hurdle of not having been able to do proper due diligence. He claimed an unconditional offer could be in by Thursday.

Vickers said such a move would mean resubmitting a capital restructuring plan through the legal system, risking delays because of the summer recess.

IMF to resume rescue package for Indonesia

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

THE International Monetary Fund said yesterday it hopes to resume rescue payments to Indonesia in the next few weeks as the country's government revealed for the first time the full extent of the damage wreaked by the recent economic and political turmoil.

The Indonesian Government forecast unemployment will rise towards 15 million by the end of year, around 17 per cent of the country's total workforce. It also predicted that the economy was set to contract by 10.1 per cent this year while inflation will reach 85 per cent. In the first quarter of this year, GDP declined by 6.2 per cent.

The crisis claimed one of its first big corporate victims yesterday when Sempati, the Indonesian airline, suspended all operations and Govern-

ment sources predicted it would be wound up by the weekend. Sempati is partly-owned by the former president Suharto's youngest son.

The new Government has promised to step up its investigation into Suharto family assets. The Indonesian Justice Minister said family members would be banned from travelling abroad during the inquiry. The rupiah fell to 11,700 compared with 11,450 in early trade. The Jakarta stock market fell 3.5 per cent to 399.6.

The troubled markets in Russia, however, regained ground as speculation grew that the G7 group of nations is preparing more financial aid. The Moscow stock exchange closed up 12.5 per cent, reversing Monday's losses.

Water contract, page 28

Prescott funds for Channel link close

JOHN PRESCOTT, the Deputy Prime Minister, is hoping to announce today that he has agreed to plough hundreds of millions of pounds of government money into a Railtrack-sponsored bailout of the Channel Tunnel rail link (Carl Mordish writes).

The deal is set to cause a political storm as more taxpayers' money is ploughed into a £5.4 billion project, viewed by many as a white elephant. The sponsor of the rail link, London & Continental Railways, originally demanded an extra £1.2 billion subsidy, on top of the £1.8 billion government investment in the project.

Railtrack will agree to buy the first

phase of the project, a rail link from the Channel Tunnel to Ebbsfleet in Kent, while retaining an option on the second and more difficult phase across the Thames and into Central London.

The project has accumulated some £400 million in debt, of which £260 million relates to the losses of Eurostar, the train operator. The future of the Eurostar service poses another dilemma for the Government. A consortium led by British Airways and National Express is competing for the service with Virgin Rail. Granting the former bidder the franchise would present severe competition issues over transport to Paris and Brussels.

Booker slumps 15% after third warning

SHARES of Booker plunged by 15 per cent yesterday after the salmon-to-whodunnits company issued its third profits warning since January and placed three of its five divisions on the auction block (Fraser Nelson and Sarah Cunningham write).

Jonathan Taylor, who took over as chief executive in March after the resignation of Charles Bowen, said the company has decided on a complete break-up in the hope of reviving the shares.

He added that, in recent months, business at its core cash-and-carry shops has slowed after further problems in bedding down Nurdin &

Peacock — which it bought 18 months ago.

The shares dropped 44p to 248 1/2p yesterday, even though Mr Taylor said the company has had tentative take-over approaches for every one of its divisions.

It is already in talks to sell its 64 per cent stake in the copyright to Agatha Christie works, although it will continue to sponsor the Booker Prize. Its two agribusiness divisions will follow, and its salmon processing arm will be sold once it has returned to financial health.

Mr Taylor, 63, said he will stand down as acting chairman when a new chief executive has been found.

The buyer, Nikko Europe, saw off competition from more than 30 rivals

Nikko won an aggressive auction

SOLD

For £174m including debt compared with initial expectations of about £150m

The deal represents a fantastic return

THE FIGHT TO BUY ROADCHEF

BANGERS AND CASH

When RoadChef saw what we were able to put on the table they were suitably impressed. 15% times historic cashflow speaks for itself. Arthur Andersen Corporate Finance has all the ingredients you need to sell your business.

For more information contact Stuart Lees or Mike Peters on +44 171 438 3000

ARTHUR ANDERSEN

Arthur Andersen, P.O. Box 55, 1 Surrey Street, London WC2R 2NP is authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales to carry on investment business.

SCOOT™
0800 192192
www.scoot.co.uk

National Grid hopes for £1bn US expansion

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

NATIONAL GRID, which runs the country's electricity transmission network, may soon spend more than £1 billion on a US operation. The business, which has gearing of 165 per cent, has joined the growing band of UK power companies scouting the US market and has held initial talks with a number of companies. It hopes to buy into one that would give it distribution experience as well as transmission.

David Jones, the chief executive, said the company would hope to leverage a purchase on the costs it could cut from a new business.

Faced with limited opportunities to expand in its domestic market, National Grid is expanding its overseas interests although that division contributed only £10 million of profits last year out of a pre-tax total, before exceptional, of £467.7 million.

That figure had fallen from £591.4 million in the previous year on the impact of a new pricing regime. However, the company saw its share

price jump 15p to 387p after analysts warned to the unexpected cost reductions. National Grid has lowered its transmission controllable costs by 14 per cent.

Last year it also benefited from a one-off profit of £107 million from its sale of a minority stake in Energis, the telecommunications operation.

The company has held talks recently with the Government ahead of the publication of the energy review which aims to secure a market for UK coal. Six months ago when the Prime

Minister opened the review amid a crisis in the coal industry he said the Government was responding to concerns from National Grid.

Mr Jones said: "I don't believe that that was the cause of the review. It was a useful thing to refer to." He said the review must deliver a mixture of generating fuels to ensure stability of the system.

National Grid's earnings per share, adjusted to exclude the Energis gain, fell from 24.3p to 19.8p. The total dividend was lifted 8.4 per cent to 12.07p with the final payment of 7.24p.

Smart card launched by Visa

Visa International, the payment-systems group, yesterday launched a smart card that will replace cash as well as separate credit, debit, loyalty and store cards.

The card looks like a plastic bank card but has an embedded microchip that allows consumers to charge their credit account, make payments from their bank and collect store loyalty points.

Edmund Jensen, Visa International president, said: "This is like a bank in your pocket."

Xerox jobs

About 2,000 jobs are to be created in the Irish Republic by Xerox. The American fax machine to software company is setting up its European headquarters in Dublin, with additional facilities in Dundalk, Co. Louth. The investment will include a manufacturing plant and a tele-service facility.

Times award

Marianne Curphey, the deputy personal finance editor of *The Times*, was yesterday named Consumer Pension and Investment Journalist of the Year. The £1,300 award - sponsored by Aon Consulting - was presented at the House of



Curphey: award winner

Commons by John Denham, MP, the pensions minister.

Bookings up

Eurocamp, the camping and mobile home holiday group, said bookings are 5 per cent ahead of last year despite a slow February and March. The company reported a pre-tax loss of £4.3 million in the six months to March 31, from £4.7 million last time.

Thames renegotiates Jakarta water contract

By CHRISTINE BUCKLEY
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A KEY contract to manage water supplies in Jakarta between Thames Water and the Indonesian Government has been renegotiated after days of intensive talks involving the Foreign Office, the Export Credit Guarantee Department and the company.

The 25-year, £225 million contract to manage half of Jakarta's water supplies had been halted after the fall of the Suharto Government.

It is thought that the Government and ECGD threw their weight behind helping to rebuild the deal in order to preserve an important overseas contract and to encourage confidence in other international initiatives by British companies.

But analysts fear that Thames will not get the revenues it had hoped for from the deal, which is its biggest overseas commitment. The company would not disclose details of the new contract, although it stressed that its investment in Jakarta would not be large and would be staged.

Thames is now in talks with potential partners to take a 15 per cent stake in the initiative after buying out - for "a negligible sum" - its local partner PT Kekaripala Airindo, which is owned by former President Suharto's eldest son. Yesterday Suez Lyonnais des Eaux bought out its local partner in its contract to supply water to the other half of Jakarta.

Bill Alexander, chief executive of Thames, said there had been times over the past few days when the company had come close to walking away from the contract, which had taken four years to negotiate. But he said Thames remained committed to overseas expansion and wanted the company "to be the fastest-growing water business in the world."

Thames yesterday announced an expected share



Sir Robert Clarke, chairman of Thames Water, left, with Bill Alexander.

buyback of about £300 million and said it would put £100 million into discretionary investment. Mr Alexander said the two announcements proved that the company split benefits between shareholders and customers. He also joined other water companies in giving

a warning on the effects of a large one-off cut in bills that the regulator is expected to make in his next pricing review, to be implemented in two years. Mr Alexander said a large one-off cut could result in higher subsequent bills if the companies were struggling

to fund investment. Pre-tax profits for the year to March 31, before exceptional, were £407 million (£394 million). Adjusted earnings per share rose to 90.7p (85.5p). The total dividend was raised 11.6 per cent to 38.4p, with a final of 25.9p due on September 1.

Vodafone takes issue with Oftel over call charges

By CHRIS AVRES

VODAFONE, the mobile phone company that has invested £1.5 billion in its British network, yesterday looked likely to clash with the industry watchdog over its inquiry into the prices of phone calls.

The company, which plans to invest another £350 million next year in the UK and a similar amount abroad, rejected claims by Oftel that Britain's mobile phone companies charge consumers too much. In March, Oftel asked the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to investigate the matter, and it will produce a report later this year.

Chris Gent, chief executive of Vodafone, said: "I cannot quite understand where Oftel is coming from. I don't know what their agenda is - there is not a price war, but there is intense competition. Call charges are value for money, some tariffs are as low as 5p a minute independent of distance. They're coming down all the time."

Vodafone yesterday reported a 21 per cent rise in pre-tax profits from £539 million to £650 million for the year to March 31, as sales rose 41 per cent to £2.5 billion. Earnings per share were up 15 per cent to 13.63p and a final dividend of 2.82p (2.45p) will be paid on August 14, bringing the total payment to 5.53p (4.81p).

The figures were ahead of expectations, and the company's shares rose 25p to an all-time high of 71.5p. The shares traded at just 28.2p last June.

However, Vodafone's market share in the UK fell 1 per cent to 36 per cent, and margins also fell because of heavy investment and a £20 million reorganisation.

Tempos, page 30

Filofax shares slide as talks are called off

FLOFAX disappointed the market yesterday by revealing that talks that could have led to the sale of the company have been called off. Robin Field, chief executive, said that none of the companies with which he had discussed alliances or take-over had been willing to pay a premium. Filofax's shares slid from 179p to 161½p. The company reported that pre-tax profit rose 7 per cent in the year to March 31, to £6.1 million. Turnover was marginally lower at £57.7 million. Earnings per share were 14.5 per cent ahead at 15p. The company will pay a final dividend of 2.42p (2.2p), giving a total of 4.07p (3.7p).

Filofax also unveiled plans to reorganise its management. David Collinson, the current non-executive chairman, is to retire but stay on as a non-executive director. Mr Field will step up to be executive chairman, while Chris Brace, current finance director and company secretary, will become managing director.

Tesco to offer pensions

TESCO has become the first supermarket to launch a personal pension plan as part of an effort to expand in financial services. The pension is being launched through a joint venture with Scottish Widows. David Graham, Tesco's personal finance chief executive, said the plan was a simply designed product that aimed to appeal to shoppers who were "unfamiliar and uncomfortable buying financial products". The pension will initially be marketed in 20 stores before being launched nationally in the autumn.

Alstom value tops £4bn

ALSTOM, the power and transportation group formerly known as GEC Alsthom, will be valued at £4.1 billion to £4.7 billion when it floats this month. The indicative price range for the shares being floated will be £190 to £220 (£19.50 to £22.50), Alstom said yesterday. The shares will be traded in Paris, New York and London from June 22. GEC owns Alstom with Alcatel Alsthom of France. The pair are floating 52 per cent of the venture. Although the stock is not on public offer, qualifying GEC shareholders will be able to apply for up to £1,000 of shares.

Confident Apollo up 36%

APOLLO METALS, the engineering group, raised pre-tax profits by 36 per cent to £2.6 million in the six months to March 31 on sales up 18 per cent to £42 million. Earnings rose 43 per cent to 5.7p out of which the half-year dividend rises 10 per cent to 1.6p. The shares remained unchanged at 121½p. Albert Hargreaves, chairman, said: "Demand is continuing to grow, we are penetrating new markets and operationally we are becoming more efficient. I expect, therefore, to see further progress in the second half of the year."

Greencore profits surge

GREENCORE, the Irish food producer, raised pre-tax profits by 17 per cent to £25.4 million (£22 million) on sales up by 23 per cent to £126.5 million in the six months to March 27. Earnings rose by 18 per cent to 11.1p out of which the interim dividend rises 10 per cent to 1.28p. David Diller, chief executive, said: "The recent acquisitions of Kears and Pauls Malt represent important strategic moves for the group." He added that cost savings from Pauls and synergies in its malt division "will contribute to the enhancement of profitability".

Clear lifts More stake

CLEAR CHANNEL, the American firm bidding £475 million for More Group, the British billboard advertiser, has nearly doubled the size of its shareholding in the UK company after buying stock in the market. Clear Channel raised its stake to 29.9 per cent from 17 per cent. It also has acceptances for its £11.10 a share bid for 5 per cent, leaving it in a commanding position to win control of More in spite of competition from the Decaux, the French group, whose higher bid of £12.20 is subject to a monopolies investigation.

Supply deal for Ushers

USHERS of Trowbridge, the regional brewer based in Wiltshire, has signed a ten-year agreement to supply Löwenbräu beers from next month. Ushers, which replaces Allied Domecq as Löwenbräu's distributor in the UK, will brew and package both Premium Bier and Pils and also import packaged beers such as Oktoberfest. The agreement was announced as Ushers reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £6.1 million (£5.6 million) in the six months to April 30. Adjusted earnings rose 11.6 per cent to 4.8p a share. The interim dividend rises 10 per cent to 1.45p.

Wolseley expands in US

WOLSELEY, the builders' merchant, has made three acquisitions of American distribution businesses for \$111 million (£68 million). Toxour Energy, in Pennsylvania; Stock Lumber in Wisconsin and Minnesota; and Forward Enterprises of Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan are expected to contribute annual sales of \$216 million. Wolseley shares fell 5p to 418p yesterday. The audited accounts of Stock Lumber for the year ended December 31, 1997, showed sales of \$174.8 million and pre-tax profit of \$15.8 million.

Morrison advances

MORRISON CONSTRUCTION GROUP lifted pre-tax profits 28 per cent to £20.8 million in the year to March 31. Earnings rose 27 per cent to 20.27p a share. There is a final dividend of 4.05p a share, lifting the total 13.8 per cent to 5.85p. The company said it entered the current financial year with a record workload. Regional operations are being expanded and the company said it was well-placed to consider acquisitions. The shares rose 6½p to 387½p yesterday.

Tempos, page 30

RBS withdraws its £630m offer for Midshires

By RICHARD MILES, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

MEMBERS of Birmingham Midshires will have to wait until the second half of next year for their windfalls after the building society was yesterday released from its exclusive agreement with Royal Bank of Scotland.

RBS said it had agreed to withdraw its £630 million offer for Midshires on condition that the society paid £5 million towards its costs, plus a further £10 million if it is bought by Halifax before January 2000.

The Midshires board is now free to talk to Halifax, which succeeded the RBS deal by tabling a £780 million bid, while offering the same three-year guarantee on jobs and a pledge that the Midshires name would be retained.

Midshires yesterday en-

phased that it was open to other offers, although it did not want to enter an auction where the successful purchaser would be determined solely by price.

No other offers have yet been made, nor have any potential buyers indicated their interest in the society. Banking analysts said no one was likely to outbid Halifax, particularly as financial stocks had shed some of their value in recent weeks.

While Lloyds TSB, Barclays and Abbey National have all been reported as possible acquirers, City sources suggested that an Irish bank was a more likely challenger.

A spokesman for Midshires said: "We are in no rush. Price is not the only factor in play here."

Dairy Crest seeks fresh acquisitions

DAIRY CREST is on the lookout for further acquisitions in the wake of its purchase earlier this year of Raines Dairy Foods (Sarah Cunningham writes).

The company would be interested in other dairy businesses, both in the UK and overseas. Dairy Crest would not specify how much it was prepared to invest, but said it has a strong balance sheet and low gearing.

Yesterday Dairy Crest, which is behind the Cathedral City, Clover and Pijj brands, reported pre-tax profits of £40.6 million, for the year to March 31 compared with £35.5 million. Turnover was virtually unchanged at £781.4 million.

Earnings per share rose from 22.4p to 25.7p and the company will pay a final dividend of 7.4p giving a total for the year of 10.9p (9.9p).

Retail spending shows fresh signs of slowing

By ALASDAIR MURRAY, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

CONSUMER credit growth fell to its lowest levels in six months in April, providing fresh evidence that consumer spending is beginning to slow.

April consumer credit growth totalled 0.66 per cent compared with 1.4 per cent in March. The April figure was the lowest since September.

Non-card spending slipped sharply to £486 million compared with £1 billion in March, suggesting that spending on items such as cars and home improvements is also beginning to slow. Credit card lending increased by £380 million compared with £407 million the previous month.

Economists said the data should bring some relief to the markets because the recent strength in consumer credit figures had prompted concern

that retail spending could take off again. The Bank of England Monetary Policy Committee meeting starts today and is expected to leave rates on hold.

The pound, however, shrugged off the latest figures as worries over events in Russia and Asia continued to dominate the markets. It closed up slightly at DM2.9174.

Separate data showed that growth in the construction sector moderated for the third month running. The Chartered Institute of Purchasing and Supply Construction survey index of activity slipped from 59.7 to 57.6.

The Treasury's quarterly breakdown of its currency reserves showed underlying reserves falling just \$1 million to \$34.79 billion.

The ultimate management solution.

HP VECTRA VL7 PC 266 MHz

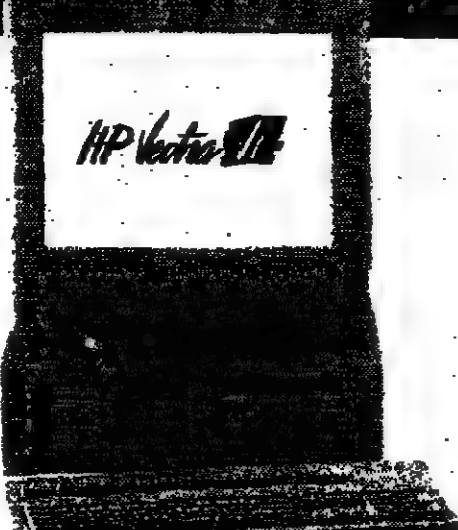
£959 EXC. VAT

£1,127 INC. VAT



FREE NT 4 upgrade, 24x CD-ROM, Microsoft Word 97

HP VECTRA VL PC Intel Pentium®II processor 266 MHz, 3.2GB hard drive, 32MB RAM, Windows 95 (ref D5722A) 15" monitor (ref 3825A)



"If you're looking for a well-constructed, fast PC with the finest management solution on the market today and you don't want to break the bank to get it, look no further than the HP Vectra."
"more bang for the buck."
"HP TopTools is the finest management solution on the market today."
"led the group in overall performance."
"the Vectra is also an incredible bargain"

PC Magazine (US) 36.1.96

AVAILABLE FROM
Basilica Computing Limited.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL

01727 840 100

or visit www.basilica.co.uk



ix shares slide as are called off

Shares in the company fell yesterday by revealing that the rate of the company's share repurchase programme had been reduced from 10 per cent to 5 per cent. The company also announced that it had decided to reduce its dividend by 10 per cent. The company's shares fell 1.5 per cent to 1.55p. The company's shares are currently trading at 1.55p.

to offer pensions

The company is offering a pension scheme to its employees. The scheme is a defined contribution scheme. The company is offering a pension scheme to its employees. The scheme is a defined contribution scheme. The company is offering a pension scheme to its employees. The scheme is a defined contribution scheme.

n value tops £4bn

The company's value has topped £4 billion. The company's value has topped £4 billion. The company's value has topped £4 billion. The company's value has topped £4 billion. The company's value has topped £4 billion.

lent Apollo up 36%

The company's shares have risen 36 per cent. The company's shares have risen 36 per cent. The company's shares have risen 36 per cent. The company's shares have risen 36 per cent. The company's shares have risen 36 per cent.

core profits surge

The company's core profits have surged. The company's core profits have surged. The company's core profits have surged. The company's core profits have surged. The company's core profits have surged.

lifts More stake

The company has lifted its stake. The company has lifted its stake. The company has lifted its stake. The company has lifted its stake. The company has lifted its stake.

ly deal for Ushers

The company has reached a deal for Ushers. The company has reached a deal for Ushers. The company has reached a deal for Ushers. The company has reached a deal for Ushers. The company has reached a deal for Ushers.

ely expands in US

The company has expanded in the US. The company has expanded in the US. The company has expanded in the US. The company has expanded in the US. The company has expanded in the US.

rison advances

The company has advanced in the prison industry. The company has advanced in the prison industry. The company has advanced in the prison industry. The company has advanced in the prison industry. The company has advanced in the prison industry.

ution

The company is a leading provider of solutions. The company is a leading provider of solutions. The company is a leading provider of solutions. The company is a leading provider of solutions. The company is a leading provider of solutions.

asilica Computing Limited

asilica Computing Limited. For further information call 1727 840 100 or visit www.basilica.co.uk

HEWLETT PACKARD

HEWLETT PACKARD. For further information call 1727 840 100 or visit www.basilica.co.uk

Millennium manhunt at M&S



COMMENTARY
by our City Editor

On Monday Sir Richard Greenbury joined Tony Blair to launch The Children's Promise, a campaign which aims to persuade everyone in the UK to give their final hour's earnings of this millennium to children's charities. Putting the considerable weight of Marks & Spencer behind the project is Sir Richard's canny response to the Government's continuing cajoling to bully British business into backing the millennium celebrations. Sir Richard was not about to see his £12 million vanish under the roof of the Greenbury Dome so he has negotiated a deal which puts most of the M&S pledge to charitable effect but still buys pride of place in the National Identity Zone at Peter Mandelson's fun palace.

There, in Dome-speak, M&S "will showcase its special relationship with the British way of life". Why the crowds should flock to Greenwich to see that instead of simply taking a trip to Marble Arch is a mystery yet to be explained. What also remains to be explained is the capacity in which Sir Richard will be earning that final hour's salary in 1999. The chances are that he will see out the millennium in the same executive chairman role in which he seems to have been installed for decades. The next century will not be very old, however, before there is change at the top of M&S.

The timetable may not suit

everyone, either inside the company, where there is one obviously disenchanted would-be successor in the shape of deputy chairman Keith Oates, or outside, where some analysts have been craving certainty over who will take the helm. But there is good reason behind the delay.

Marks is undergoing a period of unprecedented upheaval. Some of it was carefully planned, such as the £2 billion expansion programme currently under way and the launch into mail order. Some of it results from opportunism: the chance to cherry pick the best of Littlewoods' store portfolio was unmissable but integration is complicated although it will cement Marks' dominant position in the British high street. Some is unexpected and unwanted: the financial crises in Asia were not part of the M&S plan, and the effect on the Hong Kong stores has been instant and unpleasant. The upshot is that M&S figures for the next couple of years will not look as Sir Richard had planned.

The non-executive directors looked at the options and decided that Sir Richard might be their best bet to lead the company through the turbulence. This was a change of plan. Boardroom

minutes reveal that in 1995 it was decided that Sir Richard would step down this year, at the age of 62. But by last autumn, the non-execs had apparently come to the view that this was not the answer. With its combination of food, financial services and fashion operating internationally, M&S is a hugely complicated business. Greenbury knows every bit of it; the non-execs were not convinced that Oates, or any of the three competing managing directors, were ready for the task.

They are a tough team, used to dealing with strong executives and would not give anyone a contract for life — or more than a year. Among them are Sir Martin Jacob, chairman of the Pru, Sir Michael Perry, a former Unilever chairman, Brian Baldock, former deputy chairman of Guinness, Sir Ralph Robins, chairman of Rolls-Royce, and Dame Stella Rimington, former director-general of MI5. Sir Martin, in particular, has to consider the future of the Pru's

5.5 per cent holding in the company when he listens to Sir Richard's undoubtedly strong views on how the business should be run. Change is coming, and a non-executive chairman will be installed: if he can let go enough, it might even be Sir Richard for a time. But the reckoning is that the company can sensibly take a year to arrive at the right structure for the next millennium. During that time a new star may emerge to leapfrog the queue for the chief executive's role. Insiders

enthusiase over the talents of Chris Littmoden, an internationalist who sorted out Brooks Brothers in the US and has also made an impact as a special adviser to the Ministry of Defence. Behind Littmoden and his peers come a raft of talented executives who are being groomed for senior roles. While Sir Richard may not have produced an obvious successor to step straight into his shoes, he does, through the Chairman's Dev-

elopment Committee, have a group of thirtysomethings who are treated to a management training scheme most business schools could not emulate. Speakers range from government ministers to Pearson's Marjorie Scardino. Few who graduate from the group would dream of ever leaving M&S.

It is a long-term business which makes the recent underperformance of the shares all the more unwarranted. While analysts worry over the short-term impact of the Asian crisis, Sir Richard is pondering whether he should take the company deep into Japan and China, where he has had a team for two years. He says that he tries to take decisions that will benefit the company for the next 40 years, unlike the money men who move their funds around with a view on the next two weeks.

He has stamped his personality on the business more than has been sent packing, but he could have ever dreamt when

he joined at the age of 16. But M&S is changing probably faster than even he might have imagined. For the first time, outside consultants have been brought into Baker Street and a massive strategic review is under way. That should be completed by next spring. It will provide a useful blueprint for the new chief executive.

Camelot quest for the gravy train

Lotteries are all about making money, and Camelot is not one to disappoint. Sales in 1997 topped £5.5 billion, raising £1.6 billion for Good Causes, and giving the National Lottery operator a £54.2 million profit after tax — more than £1 million a week for doing what many regard as very little. The board enjoyed further big pay rises, led by Tim Holley, the chief executive, who took home £740,000 last year, including a big pension top-up. Some £2.7 billion is paid out in prizes, and £708 million goes to the Treasury.

But what of Camelot's largely invisible shareholders? GTEch, the American lottery operator, has been sent packing, but

continues to enjoy a supply contract with Camelot worth £30 million a year. Racal Electronics earns £19 million for network communications and maintenance. ICL, which assembled GTEch terminals under licence, is reduced to providing terminal maintenance and retailer training. De La Rue and Cadbury Schweppes are retained simply as consultants.

The shareholders reaped £30 million between them in dividends last year. Minus GTEch, their cuts will increase, but things may not be quite so easy for Camelot in the months that lie ahead. The proportion of sales returned to Good Causes and doled out in prizes rises as the licence rolls on, putting profits under increasing pressure. Instantants have proved a flop. Cadbury and the rest may have to apply some imagination if this gravy train is to keep on rolling.

Sterling advice

COMPANIONS in that doughty band who said sterling was too high before we went into the ERM, will give respect to Simon Wren-Lewis, co-author of *Real Exchange Rates for the Year 2000*. He calculates that the pound's fundamental equilibrium rate is now between 2 and 2.5 marks, say DM2.30. Joining the euro at anything like today's DM2.92 would be mad. But will Gordon Brown believe this any more than John Major in 1990?

MEPC to give back £400m to shareholders

By CARL MORTISHED

MEPC has increased by a third the size of its planned payback to shareholders. The property company will return £400 million of capital to investors after rapid progress in the sale of its overseas assets.

The repayment will take the form of a bonus issue of redeemable "B" shares after approval of the scheme at an extraordinary meeting. In September MEPC announced plans to shed its Australian and US properties and promised that £300 million would be returned.

James Tuckey, chief executive, said that £1 billion of property was sold or under offer. "We decided that the best figure was £400 million, which reflects better and quicker results from disposals."

Balance sheet gearing after

the capital repayment will be 65 per cent, without taking into account the year-end revaluation. However, interest cover could fall to 1.7 times next year, as MEPC's £500 million-plus development programme reaches a peak and before rental income is secured to balance the outgoings.

In the half year to March 31 MEPC's pre-tax profits totalled £109 million (£3 million). The previous half year had included a one-off £73 million charge for unwinding onerous interest rate swaps.

The company also confirmed that Sir John Egan will replace Lord Blakenham as chairman on August 1.

The interim dividend is 4p, to be paid as a foreign income dividend (5.25p).

Oasis shares lifted 16% by sales figures

SHARES in Oasis Stores leapt 16 per cent yesterday after the company, which issued two profit warnings last year, reported a sales comeback (Sarah Cunningham writes).

Michael Bennett, the chairman, told shareholders at the annual meeting that sales in the first 17 weeks of this year were 9 per cent ahead on a like-for-like basis.

Total sales were up 19 per cent. The company's shares rose 28p to 202p in response to the statement. The shares peaked at 421p last year.

Tempos, page 30

GB Railways generates £3.6m profit

GB Railways, the Anglia Railways franchise, is the latest train company to generate significant profits despite a deterioration in punctuality levels (Fraser Nelson writes).

The company said yesterday that it had pre-tax profits of £3.65 million in its first 18 months, and £3.22 million in the year to the end of March. The maiden dividend is 5p.

On average, the network ranked sixth amongst the worst ten in the punctuality league, but still received an incentive bonus of £307,000 on top of a £35.9 million subsidy.



If you invest

Siebe's record profits are certainly worth a closer look.

Preliminary results for the year ended April 4, 1998			
	1998	1997	% change
Turnover (£m)	3,670.2	3,005.3	up 22.1%
Pre-tax Profit (£m)	486.4	424.1	up 14.7%
Earnings per Share (pence)	62.0	54.1	up 14.6%
Dividend per Share (pence)	16.2	14.7	up 10.2%



This advertisement, which has been prepared by and is the sole responsibility of Siebe PLC, has been approved by Kilmartin Benson Securities Limited (regulated by the Securities and Futures Authority Limited) for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act 1986.

"We are particularly pleased that earnings per share were up by 14.6% and that underlying EPS, without adverse translational exchange rates, increased by 22.6%. The Group's strategy of establishing itself as a global Controls and Automation company was reinforced by further acquisitions during the year and this focused policy will continue in the coming years. We expect the North American and United Kingdom economies to remain strong and Continental Europe is recovering well. The Far East remains a concern and we are monitoring our operations in the region very closely. Based on this outlook we are confident that 1998/1999 will be another successful year for the Group."

Sir Philip Beck, Chairman

Siebe plc, Saxon House, 2-4 Victoria Street, Windsor, Berkshire SL4 1EN, England. Tel 01753 856411 www.siebe.com



Too soon to go bottom-fishing in Asia



JANET BUSH

There are few perceptible silver linings to the deepening Asian crisis but Charles Goodhart has found one. For academic economists, the current plight of Japan is a source of rare intellectual excitement because, for the first time in the 65 years since John Maynard Keynes talked about the liquidity trap, Japan seems finally to have provided empirical evidence that it exists.

In an otherwise sombre assessment of the picture in Japan, Professor Goodhart, speaking at a London School of Economics conference last week, positively bubbled with excitement. There has been much talk of late that Japan may be moved to cut its official discount rate from 0.5 per cent to 0.25 per cent or even zero in a desperate attempt to re-ignite domestic demand. But, as Lord Keynes explained so long ago, it may find that it is "pushing on a string", the phenomenon in which interest rates become so low that demand simply does not react.

Fiscal policy ought to come to the fore in this case but, here again, Japan faces apparently insurmountable obstacles. Its budget deficit is already running at some 7 per cent of GDP and it faces not only the huge costs of bailing out its rotten banking sector, but also meeting the growing demands of an ageing population.

Up to now, Tokyo has been under huge international pressure to stimulate the economy through tax cuts and higher public spending. But the Japanese people know that raising the budget deficit now will inevitably lead to a drastic fiscal squeeze later. Why spend the extra money received courtesy of tax cuts when it is going to be clawed back later? It is quite possible that domestic demand will fail to react to fiscal stimulus.

Given the limitations of orthodox monetary and fiscal policy, a much more radical option is now being mooted. Paul Krugman, of MIT, is currently advocating nothing less than a full-scale monetisation of the economy. He believes that the time has come for the central bank to print money day and night, flood the economy with it to produce inflationary expectations and so, the theory goes, persuade scared Japanese consumers to start running down their savings.

Professor Goodhart comes to a similar conclusion. He said Japan's central bank ought to "buy everything in sight", not just bonds but property and other assets.

There is evidence that this is already happening. Japan's monetary base has risen by a spectacular 37 per cent in the past six months as the central bank has

flooded the Tokyo money markets with liquidity to head off total collapse in the banking system. Gavin Davies, chief international economist at Goldman Sachs, said that it is disingenuous of the Bank of Japan to pretend, as it has been doing, that this is merely a technical operation. He said: "It has provided private sector banks with very short-term dated bills

worth about 4 per cent of GDP in exchange for much less liquid government bonds. This is very close to outright monetisation."

The most obvious result of this policy is the slide in the yen and, despite the protestations to the contrary in Tokyo, a weaker yen now seems to be the policy of choice, perhaps the only conceivable policy. Even the US, which has always fought against a soft yen because of the impact on its trade performance, appears ready to countenance a continuing slide in the Japanese currency as the lesser of two evils because it simply cannot afford to see the Japanese economy collapse.

Everything points to a lower yen and that is extremely worrisome for the rest of Asia. A slide in the yen would put even more pressure on its trading partners in the

region and might even, if the fall is dramatic enough, trigger another round of competitive devaluations. If this happens, it seems extremely likely that China and Hong Kong will this time take part.

Economists who watch China have a genuine conviction that it is preparing to devalue the renminbi at some stage. Most believe that it is simply waiting for a semblance of calm to return to the Asian region. The recent political turmoil in Indonesia has probably delayed but not ruled out a move from Beijing. If the renminbi were to be devalued, the chances of Hong Kong maintaining its peg to the dollar become much slimmer.

Indeed, some observers suggest that Hong Kong's government would privately welcome such a development to ease the severe economic squeeze that it is suffer-

ing. Unemployment has jumped to its highest level for 14 years and retail sales are falling at annual rate of more than 15 per cent. This is extremely serious when one remembers that private consumption accounts for no less than 60 per cent of Hong Kong GDP.

Chinese growth is clearly suffering but, unlike Japan, China has the option of cutting interest rates, having pursued a tight monetary policy for some time.

That, and its huge foreign exchange reserves, appear to argue against the temptation to devalue. However, it has to be remembered that China needs a high rate of growth—an estimated 8 per cent a year—simply to keep unemployment stable. The prospect of large job losses as state industries are restructured makes an expansionary monetary policy even more obligatory.

Western investors contemplating some bottom-fishing in Asia should beware. The crisis is far from entering its end game.

Trouble looms as British mills face pressure to cut their coats

Fashion for cheap imports threatens to unravel rag trade, says Carl Mortished

Britain's mill-owners have survived almost a century of slide and decline but the textile trade is bracing itself for another onslaught. The pressures bearing down on the industry now threaten it like a vice and it will not emerge undamaged.

Last week, a cold wind blew through Scotland's woolen mills as Dawson International, owner of the Pringle brand, put itself up for sale. The move followed the announcement of job losses at Grampian Brands, owner of Edinburgh Woollen Mills, and two corporate failures. Sweater Shop, a maker and retailer of knitwear, is calling in administrative receivers only three years after a £150 million management buyout and Hollas, a quoted garment maker, has also given up the ghost.

The outlook is particularly bleak for the Scottish borders where thousands of jobs may be at risk as the knitwear trade struggles to keep pace with cheap imports and a fashion industry that has fallen out of love with woolens.

This is not just a regional problem—the textile industry in Britain is caught in a pair of huge pincers, threatened from one side by the strong pound and weak export markets in Asia and on the other by rising labour costs.

Textile industry bosses went into a frenzy of lobbying to keep the Government's proposed minimum wage at the level of average basic pay, excluding bonuses, — said to be about £3.42 per hour. According to John Wilson, of the British Apparel and Textile Federation, employers are disappointed that the Low Pay Commission came up with a figure of £3.60. Labour amounts to some 30 per cent of the cost of many textile products and the customer, Britain's retail trade, is in no mood



The quick response of domestic producers to catwalk fashions is one of their key attractions

to grant favours. Mr Wilson said: "At £3.60 we are looking at pay claims of 5½ per cent. On top of that there is the introduction of the 48-hour week, the strength of sterling and low-cost imports. It is highly unlikely that we will see price increases to compensate for lost margin."

The response from the high street is not very sympathetic. Major retailers reckon they have enough trouble tempting shoppers to buy at last year's

prices. A spokesman from Marks & Spencer spells it out: "There are signs that consumer spending is tightening — that doesn't leave much room for price increases."

In fact, retailers long ago abandoned cost-plus pricing. Today, a firm like Marks & Spencer might decide to position a product, say a shirt, at £19.99. It will then ask a garment maker to supply tens of thousands of shirts at a price that gives the retailer a

specific gross margin. With a dozen such retailers dominating the high street there is little room for suppliers to negotiate a better deal.

But the rag trade bosses have a specific fear over the minimum wage — much of a worker's take-home pay is made up of payments for piece-work. If the £3.60 threshold fails to take account of the incentive payments and bonuses that make up average pay of £4 per hour-plus, costs

could rocket and productivity fall. "If they increase the floor, it undermines incentives," said Mr Wilson.

Textile bosses are hopeful that their message has been heard but even a benign outcome over the minimum wage will do little to stop the steady erosion of the UK's textile manufacturing base. Clothing imports already account for some 50-60 per cent of the market and that will continue to rise as the textile giants, such as Courtaulds Textiles and Coats Viyella, shift production to North Africa and the Far East.

That process will accelerate, says Robin Anson, of Textile Intelligence, the consultancy, who predicts that import penetration could reach 75-80 per cent. "It's a labour cost problem and the high pound and Asian currency collapse exacerbates it."

Until 1994, the Western textile industry was protected by import quotas under the terms of the Multi-Fibre Agreement, a deal which developing countries resented. The MFA was replaced by a new agreement that gradually removes the quotas over the next seven years. In 2002 a whole raft of import restrictions will be shelved and in 2005, the British textile industry will be facing the bracing chill of a market free of quotas altogether.

Mr Anson believes that the leading textile companies will remain under tremendous pressure, unless they switch to importing. "Every year the world price of clothing falls in dollar terms. It reflects the fact that there are more and more newcomers and more and more products are becoming commodities."

This will lead to greater concentration as small domestic suppliers struggle to compete with firms overseas enjoying unit labour costs less than half those in the UK. Ultimately, Mr Anson sees the successful UK textile firms as being sources, tied root and branch to the big British retailers but acting as intermediaries for overseas manufacturing.

The link between the mass market clothing retailers and their suppliers is key to the future of the industry. Marks & Spencer, which has 16 per cent of the UK market reckons it is "buying production", rather than just purchasing

clothes. For the textile trade, the dominance of a few big retailers is both a blessing and a curse. The market clout of Next and M&S ensures the volume that a manufacturer needs to cover overheads but it also reduces barriers to entry for foreign interlopers. As Mr Anson puts it: "If I want to move into the UK garment trade, I just need to make four or five successful calls and I have sewn up a third of the market."

Years ago, the answer for many textile firms was investment in technology but the double whammy of the high pound and the Asian currency meltdown has left even the most high-tech mills with costs that are still too burdensome to resist the wave of imports.

The minimum wage may, in the end, have little impact on a contracting industry. Retailers will pay extra to maintain the minimum of a domestic industry. They point to the need for quick-response garment production: fashion moves fast and shops want to be able to switch to a new colour or style within a matter of weeks after it is paraded on a Paris catwalk. That rules out Indonesia and, for very rapid response, even Morocco is too far.

But for the bread and butter business, North Africa suits both retailer and textile boss just fine. For the latter it is the only insurance against the continual assault on their margins. As a spokesman for Courtaulds Textiles put it: "What we know is that our retail customers are not willing to pay more for the product."

And if we are not prepared to pay more than £19.99 for a shirt, the lights will soon go out at the mill.

BUSINESS LETTERS

Unlimited names and spread vehicles must act together to secure future

From Mr M. H. G. Young

Sir, It is hardly new that some sectors of the Lloyd's market are trying to push out unlimited names. We are no longer convenient and those managing agents who have created their wealth on the back of our capital are longing to get rid of us as soon as they can.

To date they have tried by artifice. Many have increased their charges to names so that the risk/reward ratio becomes less attractive. Also, the Council has been persuaded that capital requirements for names need to be brought into line with Lloyd's corporate vehicles so that there will be little point in maintaining our status quo.

But unlimited names are not the only category that is vulnerable to expulsion. The type of backing that a managing agent really wants for its syndicates is that provided by

shareholders — dedicated corporate capital. Apart from convenience, it is liked because it cannot switch to other syndicates if its own perform badly.

Incorporated spread vehicles, which support other agents' syndicates, can and do make changes, and I am prepared to bet that, if names are eased out, they will be next on the list, together with NamesCos and Scottish limited partnerships.

Unlimited names and spread vehicles account for 40 per cent and 35 per cent of the Lloyd's market respectively and it is time that we realise that our interests are much the same and start acting together to secure our future.

Yours faithfully,
M. H. G. YOUNG,
22 Arundel Road,
Tunbridge Wells,
Kent TN11 7TB

Viewing deposit and mortgage rate averages in their true perspective

From Mr Richard H. C. Palmer

Sir, I am surprised by Malcolm Bruce's view of deposit and mortgage averages (business letter, May 22).

Although a reduction in mortgage rate has to be matched by a reduction in savers' rates, it does not signify an even spread.

Mr Bruce suggests that on joining monetary union, those depositors with above average balances will be able to find more profitable investments in equity-based products.

That is already the case — that is why deposit rates are

stepped. Rates at the lower to average spread are barely covering inflation.

If more funds are withdrawn than deposited at a time when rates are reduced, the average of balance spread is lowered.

Could Mr Bruce say where borrowers are to find their mortgages when house prices increase? Or perhaps house prices will also fall as a result of inadequate mortgage funding.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD H. C. PALMER,
26 Torvale Road,
Wightwick,
Wolverhampton,
WV6 8NL

Letters to the Business section of *The Times* may be sent by fax to 0171 782 5112 or by e-mail to: letters@the-times.co.uk. Letters should carry a daytime telephone number.

Wine barred

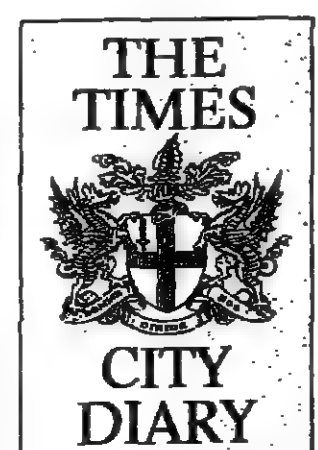
A VERY English lunch, spent leaning at 45 degrees into Arctic winds watching Sir Tim Rice, Lorraine Chase at al trying to hit croquet balls across the quagmire that is the pitch in Exchange Square, Broadgate. Chase is particularly charming as she clutches on to my hand for warmth; that sort of thing can make quite a difference to one's day, and she says sales of her plain language guide to investment are going well.

For it is the launch of the Corney & Barrow/Veuve Clicquot Croquet League, featuring entrants from Hoare

Govett, Kleinwort's, Macfarlanes and Société Générale. I wish them the best of the weather; they can do wonders for frostbite victims these days. But I hear of a culture clash between the wine bar operator and Donaldson Lufkin & Jenrette, the fiercely competitive American investment bank. DLJ has taken a six-storey building in Old Broad Street for its London HQ, the site of one of Corney's first ever bars in the City, dating from 1870.

Corney is negotiating with the developers to open a bar there in September. The Americans were not keen because this might encourage lunchtime drinking, which is verboten. So a deal has been struck whereby the DLJ staff are banned. I expect this to be rigorously enforced.

YESTERDAY was an important day for MEPC and for its chairman, until August, Lord Blakenham. Interim results, £400 million handed to shareholders and the announcement of his replacement, Sir John Egan. Yet his lordship was lost without trace. He might be on holiday in the Outer Hebrides. Or some other Scottish island. no



one can say. Strange that he should have missed the big event, but then Lord Blakenham ran a relaxed ship at Pearson, too, the other big company he once chaired.

Arch types

SOME £30 million is an awful lot to pay for a cavern under some railway arches by the Thames, so one must assume Vardon, buyer of Cannons Sports and Leisure, knows what it is doing. Nick Irens, the chief executive, assures me that the property men put a valuation of £35 million on the business. He is convinced he is getting a good deal, because the club, and its Covent Garden offshoot, would have

fetched more on the open market, but the sellers are unwilling to reveal their identities.

Hmm. The club was bought out of the empire of Jack Chia, a Singapore businessman, in 1990 after talk of floating it on the stock market. The price then was £12 million, and this was the last time the market went silly, remember. The buyout was by the chief executive, Ron Clarke, the former long-distance runner, and Kleinwort Benson. The business has changed hands a few times since, allowing all to take some profits. Clarke, like Lord Blakenham above, has opted for an offshore existence, creating a wildlife reserve off the coast of Queensland, Australia.

MOBILE phone companies spend millions disguising unsightly phone masts as trees to avoid offending the locals. Good public relations, even if it doesn't do a lot for Chris Gent, the chirpy chief executive of Vodafone. He admitted yesterday that his company's own camouflaged masts are less than convincing. "Most of them look more like inverted loo brushes."

Double entry

ACCOUNTANTS always have to balance the books, which must explain the bi-

zarre voting at yesterday's annual general meeting of the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales. A reform group had put down a motion reducing the number of council members to 53. This, to the discomfort of the Institute's council, was carried with eight thousand members in favour.

Less than half an hour later the meeting passed a resolution put forward by the council itself which, among other things, would allow the council numbers to be increased. At least president-elect Chris Swinson looked confused as he promised that the council "would listen to the messages sent by members".

MARTIN WALLER



Swinson: mixed message



Chase: plain English guide

Regus instant offices:
walk in, sit down and start work

Regus business centres provide complete flexibility and world class service. Your company can be operational in a choice of 180 prime locations worldwide, within 24 hours.

Regus have designed the ideal short and medium term office solution at a cost saving of up to 66% on traditional office leases.

Instant infrastructure, leading edge technology and a professional working environment, tailor made to your changing business requirements. You can upsize, downsize or relocate completely... instantly.

Regus
Instant Offices Worldwide

Call now on 0500 522 533 www.regus.com

Annie Turner introduces a three-page special report on a telecommunications conference devoted to the phone's role in commerce

Direct connection that means business



They've got your number: visitors at last year's Telebusiness conference

What promises to be Britain's largest and most comprehensive exhibition aimed at people doing business over the phone will be staged at Wembley Conference Centre over three days next week.

At Telebusiness 98 the emphasis will be strongly on people rather than technology, with more than 150 companies from Europe and America demonstrating their products and services. A free conference programme will run alongside it. This year, for the first time, the exhibition is incorporating what the organisers call an executive congress. This three-day event is dedicated exclusively to call centres and will feature presentations by successful users of existing technology and services in the call-centre market.

The exhibition — from June 9 to 11 — reflects everyone's growing reliance on the phone to conduct business. According to BT, the number of calls we make each year to special numbers — such as free 0800 numbers — has risen from 39 million in 1987 to over a billion in 1997.

A BT survey found that 92 per cent of consumers have used the phone for banking, catalogue purchases, product inquiries, complaints, account handling or ordering services. A Teleculture Futures study by BT and the Henley Centre found that people aged 25 to 34 use the phone the most.

BT says that only 13 per cent of us are "telephobes" — people who have a negative response to the telebusiness culture — while 53 per cent are "telephiles", and use the phone regularly for ordering products and services. Anecdotal and personal experience suggest that our enthusiasm for using call centres or talking to a machine — known as Interactive Voice Response or IVR — depends on how well it suits our needs at any given time.

My neighbour, for instance, describes the service offered by BSKyB for its pay-per-view programmes as stunning. He dials and within seconds, the BSKyB Syntellect system recognises his home number and knows which film or boxing match he wants to watch by

the number he has dialled. He does not mind communicating with a machine, and is delighted by the speed of the transaction and that he does not have to go through the fuss of repeating his details each time.

This is in contrast to my experience when trying to contact Compuserve, an Internet service provider, recently: I was forced to work

this way saves Compuserve a lot of money, but it did nothing for me, a longstanding customer.

Companies that run call centres are increasingly trying to convert them from cost centres to revenue generators. Typical call centre users are companies with a large customer base, such as utilities and mail-order firms — although as the technology becomes more affordable, many smaller companies are using them. However, when call centres are used for outbound-calling campaigns, companies risk annoying and so losing their customers.

Caroline Geraerts is the marketing manager with the London-based company Logica, which has been responsible for installing more than 30 call centres around the world. She says: "Using call centres for outbound calls needs tact; when incoming calls are in a trough, it is no good simply switching agents to making marketing calls, as you are likely to catch someone when they've just walked in from work or are eating."

"Companies should gather information on their customers' habits and work patterns and find out when it is convenient for them to be called."

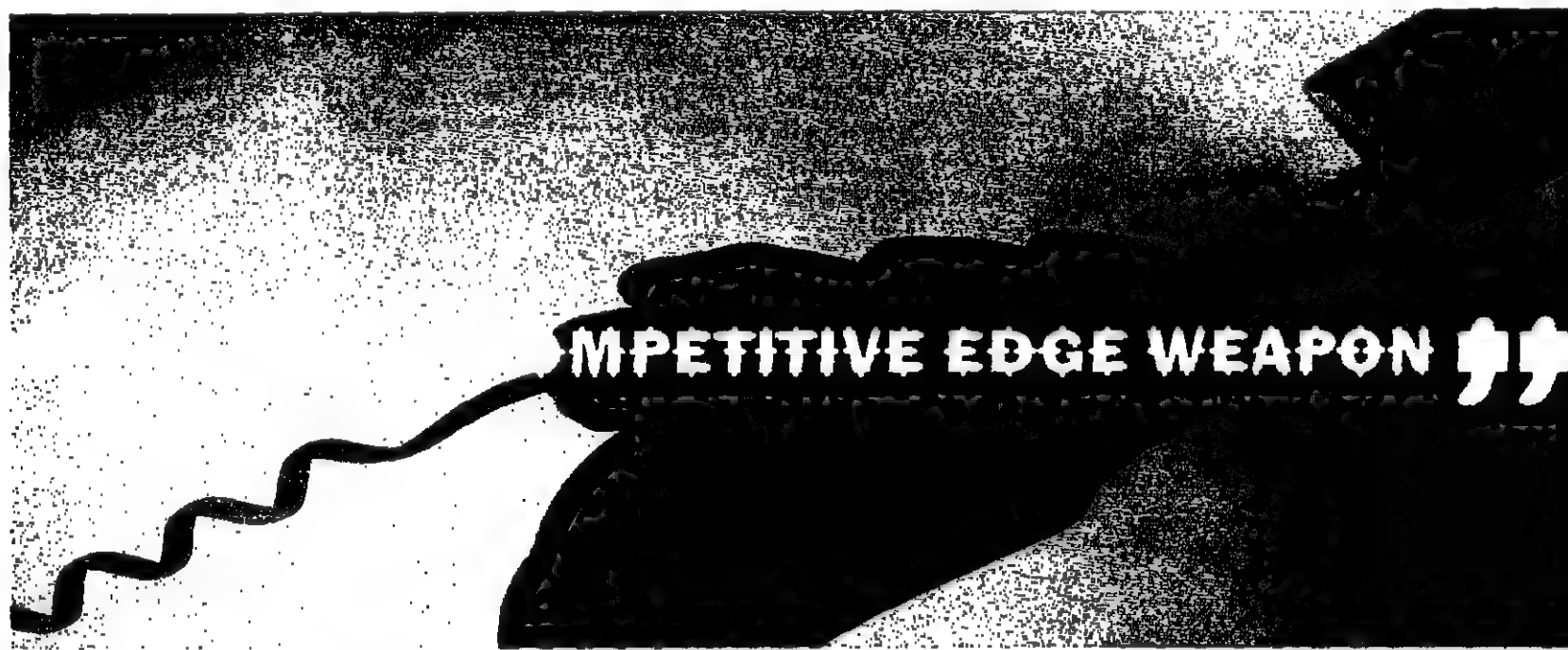
We have already built these sorts of functions into some of our call centre systems and companies are beginning to experiment with them now."

I have three residential lines and must have told BT at least 12 times in two years that I would like them to decide which Family and Friends numbers are the most advantageous for me to use. Typically there are two responses: "I'm sorry but I don't have access to that information" — which is a symptom of poor system design — and "less of people say that and we pass the comments on", which reflects BT's problems, not a fundamental flaw in the telebusiness industry.

Frustrating as telebusiness can be for the consumer, the problem is not inherently to do with using the phone, so it will continue to boom. Smart companies will learn how to exploit the technology best, both for their own and their customers' benefits.

The emphasis will be on people rather than technology

through two menus, only to discover that not one option offered was relevant. In desperation, I started pressing numbers in the hope of gaining access to an operator, but every time I just dropped into the next set of options. As far as I could discover, there was no recourse to an operator. I tried the customer service helpline as well as the technical helpline and had the same experience. I am sure working



DAVID JONES, MANAGING DIRECTOR, INFORMATION SYSTEMS, SCOTTISHPOWER.

These are exciting times for ScottishPower. When you are moving towards becoming a leading edge multi-utility organisation, it requires even greater than ever levels of effort to retain existing customers and win new business.

A goal which required ScottishPower setting up a call centre to establish a much closer direct relationship with over 3 million customers. A dramatic shift, which had to be achieved quickly.

ScottishPower chose GT-X, Graham Technology's award winning business process server software, running on a mix of SUN Microsystems Ultra 1 and Ultra 2 Application servers as the front end solution handling over 3,000 inbound and outbound calls per hour through their 400 seat call centre.

David Jones commented "Call Centre Technology and Web Technology is going to be the major customer facing technology of the future. It is how we effectively interface with our customers now and in the future. We identified in the GT-X product and in Graham Technology a company and a

product that could allow the business to look to the future".

With GT-X handling calls to and from the call centre,

ScottishPower has met all its objectives of providing the highest quality customer service in a single location. GT-X's ease

of use and implementation dramatically shortens training times for the operators who can pull data from around the organisation to help provide better feedback on customer needs.

"The implementation of our call centre was a very high risk project. It is to the enormous credit of the Graham Technology team that they delivered a product that our customers think is outstanding, delivered within a very tight lead time and within budget". Graham Technology's expertise and the GT-X solution gives ScottishPower all the power it needs

to lead into the new millennium. "We are convinced that this product is still the only product on the market that will take us where we need to go, or where any customer facing organisation needs to go. GT-X is an outstanding call centre product".

TO DISCUSS THE BENEFITS TO YOUR BUSINESS OF USING GT-X CALL 0141 891 4010

GT-X CALL CENTRES OF EXCELLENCE

Graham Technology Sun
www.gtnet.com

ADMINISTRATION

SUSAN SHIPMAN, managing director of Starform Communications, the organiser of Telebusiness 98, took charge of preparing the exhibition because of the death in January of her 41-year-old husband Philip from cancer.

Mr Shipman, a solicitor by profession, had no first-hand experience of the call centre industry when he staged the first Telebusiness exhibition and conference two years ago. Spotting a niche in a fledgling industry in which many businesses have difficulty keeping track of the advances in communications, he ensured the exhibition's success by offering visitors free entrance both



to the exhibition and to a series of associated conferences and workshops featuring specialist speakers.

Mrs Shipman says: "Nobody else was offering free conferences and the success of the event exceeded everyone's expectations. This year's event is a third larger than last year's."

2000 and one big headache

WHEN you pick up the telephone on January 1 in the year 2000, will there be a network to convey your message, or will you just get "unobtainable"? When you go back to work on January 4 and send data down the line, will it get there? Or will the millennium bug have eaten the telephone network?

Sixteen per cent of businesses worldwide are expected to fail to deal with the fact that their computers may not recognise the date change to the year 2000, and will suddenly think it is 1900. Vast numbers of UK and international companies are now heavily dependent on the telecommunications network for telephone services and data transmission. So have the network providers solved the millennium problem?

Henri Van der Stighelen is a senior consultant with management support company OSI Group, and deputy chairman of a Year 2000 group at TMA, the Telecoms Managers' Association. He says: "Companies such as BT began working on the problem some time ago, but many small to medium IT and telecoms enterprises have been slower. Technically it is a simple problem but it is multiplied millions of times, and that gives it magnitude."

He believes total network failure is unlikely, but thinks

that the service could become patchy. He says: "The modern network is very different from the old mechanical system."

Nick Waugh is IT director of a specialist lender, HFC Bank, which is planning to contact all its customers before the day, via their Goldfish credit card statements, for example. He says: "We are anticipating when most of the inquiries will come in by identifying when the media hype will begin. We are already getting a small number of casual inquiries, so we expect more."

Cable & Wireless is training its call centre staff to answer questions and is providing information on how the company is tackling the issue. Inquiries from business customers will be handled by their account manager. It is also posting regularly updated information on its Website, <http://www.cwcom.co.uk>

Another worry, says Mr Van der Stighelen, is that companies need to reassure customers that their bills are being correctly issued. "If bills are disputed, it can have an impact on cashflow."

Cable & Wireless is focusing its £70 million Year 2000 effort on systems which support billing and fault logging.

SUE SPENCELEY BURGESS

THE TELEBUSINESS REPORT

The definitive report on telebusiness in the UK to the year 2005

- ✓ 350 pages of detailed analysis and forecasts to the year 2005
- ✓ Review of consumer attitudes towards the use of the telephone
- ✓ Review of business attitudes towards the use of the telephone as a business/marketing tool
- ✓ Analysis of call centre technologies and the growth of CCI (Computer Telephony Integration)
- ✓ Appraisal of existing and proposed UK & EU legislation affecting telebusiness, telemarketing and telecommunications
- ✓ Case studies examining use of telebusiness functions across the UK
- ✓ Profiles of the key players including telemarketing agencies, equipment suppliers and telecom service providers
- ✓ Industry forecasts to the year 2005

The Telebusiness Report from Marketing Direct magazine, priced at £450.00, is available now and can be ordered by telephoning Val Macdonald on 0181 845-4545. For more information on the report telephone 0171 413 4412 or visit our website <http://www.managementreports.haynet.com>

Call centres
are taking a
new line to
improve the lot
of staff, says
Annie Turner

WORKPLACE

Few people last longer than 18 months working in call centres and, with the bad publicity they have got as places to work, this is unsurprising. So far, too little attention has been paid to agents as individuals but this is beginning to change as the value of expertise in call centre staff is being realised and greater attention is paid to recruitment and training, says Simon Roncoroni, managing director of L&R Group, a London consultancy on setting up call centres.

Every call an agent takes is timed and usually a supervisor can listen in without warning to check that the agent is handling calls in an approved way.

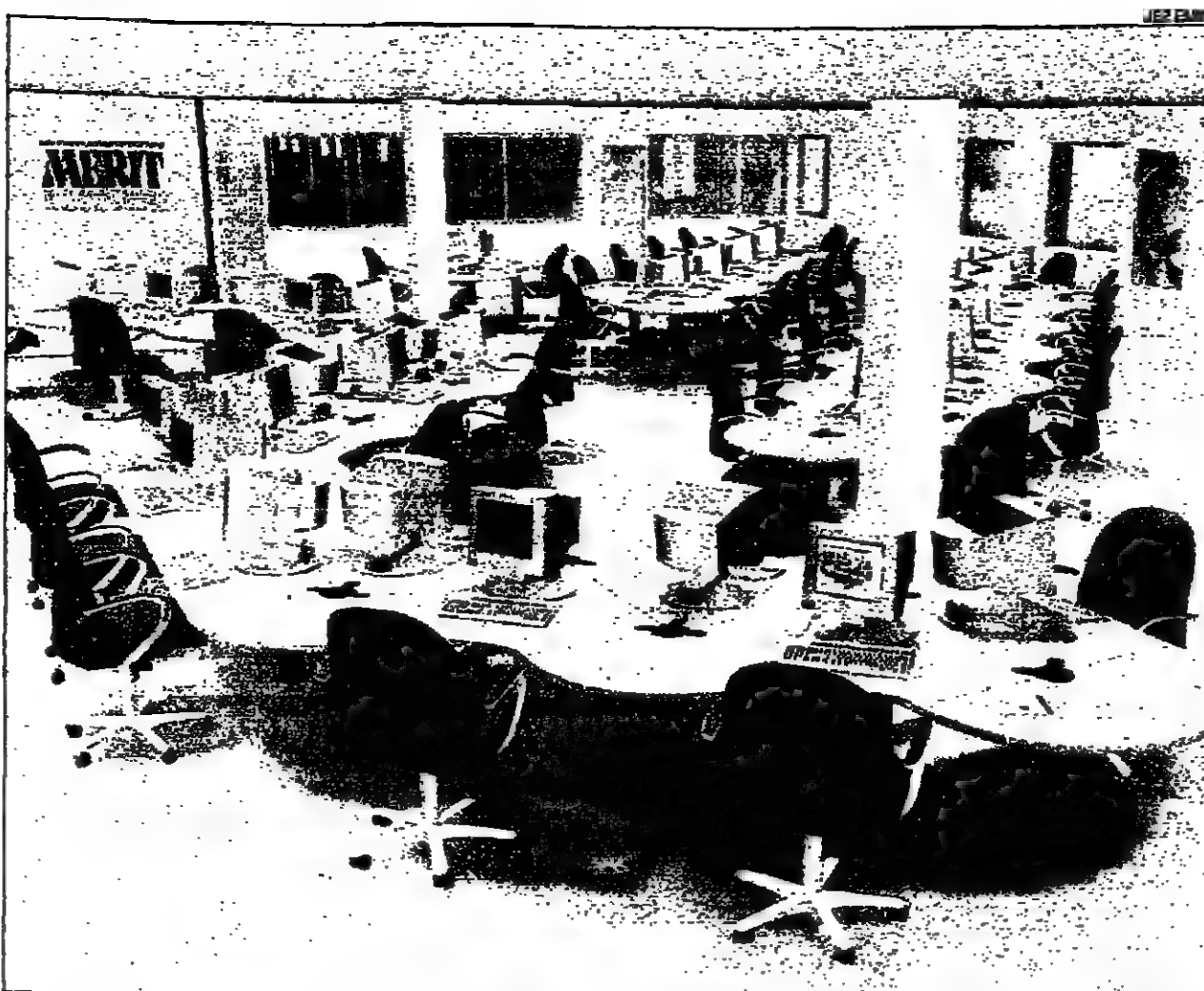
At all times a huge, lit board shows how many calls are incoming and how quickly they are being answered, which helps to keep up the psychological pressure.

Automatic call distribution (ACD) is used so that as soon as an agent completes one call, he or she is fed the next in the queue.

For agents making outbound sales or calls following up inquiries, a so-called predictive dialler systematically works through the list of numbers allocated and dials them automatically, to save the agents' time. It connects the agent only to live calls, filtering out answering machines, engaged lines (which it redials later) and those being used by fax machines.

Sue Fernie, research fellow at the London School of Economics Centre for Economic Performance (CEP), recently wrote: "The possibilities for monitoring behaviour and measuring output in call centres is amazing to behold — the tyranny of the assembly line is but a Sunday school picnic compared with the control that management can exercise in computer telephony."

According to Ms Fernie there are some 7,000 call centres in Britain that between them employ more than 200,000 agents — half the total number of call centre agents employed in Europe and about 1.1 per cent of the total



This attractive call centre office has been designed to combat high staff turnover, a perennial industry problem

Sound and the fury of call centre boom

UK workforce. This is expected to double by 2001. There are already more people employed in call centres in Britain than in coal, steel and vehicle production put together.

Clearly this is a major issue for the economy at large as well as for individuals. Around 60 per cent of the costs associated with call centres are accounted for by staff. Many call centres employ between 200 and 400 agents, which means that training and retention are serious economic issues for employers. This is aggravated by the fact that there are often a number of call centres sited near each other, lured there by regional development council grants and a plentiful supply of cheaper labour. In such areas, the turnover of staff is

increased as employees move around. For all these reasons, there appears to be a change among companies running call centres. Ms Fernie's work is blazing a trail on how best to

"The tyranny of the assembly line is a picnic compared with control in computer telephony"

provide incentives for agents, and discusses the possibilities of performance-related pay for staff. Madan Sheina, consultant with London-based Ovum, says: "Previously, working in a call centre was not viewed as a desirable profession, but that is changing

as companies put much more into training staff and making their work far more attractive. Employers now understand that it is not enough to train someone for a couple of days and then let them loose on customers. There is a shift towards customers being handled in a structured way to making it more personal. Also, in finance and insurance services, agents have to understand the products inside out and gain a great deal of information to ensure the right products are recommended."

He agrees with Caroline Geraerts, marketing manager with London-based Logica, that there is a great deal of evidence to suggest that companies are increasingly seeking

to employ graduates. Ms Geraerts says that making the work more interesting is important and that a mixture of inbound and outbound calls (known as blending) certainly contributes greatly. Nevertheless she points out: "You need a special sort of person to be able to deal with customer care and service as well as sales calls. Staff need to be good at handling complaints and to have 'the ability to withstand rejection on the sales side.'"

Perhaps Maurice Jones, managing director of C3 Computer Telephony, sums it up best. He says: "So far the main investment has gone into the heavy metal technology, whereas companies are now far more interested in figuring out how to get the best out of their staff and make sure they keep them."

Dialling up some help from outside

Tony Dawe looks at the way business turns to independent firms to handle telephone inquiries

OUTSOURCING



Ann-Marie Stagg: UK call centre award

MOST of us are accustomed to hearing an unfamiliar accent when we seek information over the telephone. Call Directory Enquiries from London and an Irish voice may answer. Take up a new share offer from Newcastle and encounter a West Country burr.

We accept that companies providing these services can choose to set up call centres for customers wherever costs will be low and staff available. We would be more surprised to learn that the people answering our calls do not belong to the companies we contact.

More and more businesses are turning to independent firms to provide the costly equipment and skilled staff needed to run a successful call centre. Over the past five years, "outsourcing", as it is known, has become a growing trend with 9,000 independent telephone operators now working for a score of companies. That number is expected to double in two years, with everything from book

others receive their bills, when they get reminders and then more angry ones when they receive solicitors' letters," she says. "We can switch staff from other tasks at these peaks."

Using this method, a firm can concentrate on its core business

Jon Reynolds, head of sales at BT CIB, the UK's fourth-largest outsource call centre agency, says: "The main 'pro' of outsourcing is that a business gets access to specialist skills. Outsource agencies need good staff to survive. As more people are recruited to employment in call centres it will become more difficult for a business setting up its own centre to find the right people."

He adds that businesses can spread the cost of establishing a call centre over the length of the outsourcing contract, to avoid a large initial investment.

Alan Vaughan, an independent consultant and board member of the Call Centre Manager Association, says that some businesses use outsource companies as a stepping stone to call centres before making the capital commitment to run their own operation.

Others turn to outsource companies to handle short campaigns for a new product or service or to help during periods of peak number of calls. Barclays Stockholders, which operates a call centre in Glasgow, adopted this approach when last year's building society and insurance company windfalls encouraged thousands more people to buy shares. Barclays called in BT CIB and devised a strategy to split calls between their two centres.

British Gas Trading has decided to outsource to BT the technology required to run its call centre but use its own staff to man the centres. Mr Vaughan adds: "The preferred option is still to run your own centre and many companies which start down the outsourcing route set up their own centres fairly quickly."

Financial institutions and companies which are completely reliant on telephone sales will generally prefer to run their own operation. For example, Halifax

Direct, the bank's telephone-based service, employs 600 staff at a call centre in Leeds and has won awards for customer service and staff training.

This year Great Universal Stores' home shopping business expects 90 per cent of all its orders, customer inquiries and catalogue requests to be made by telephone. Its call centres handle nearly 60 million inward calls every year with a target of answering nine out of ten within ten seconds. Major investment has also been made in training so its team can maximise the potential of each call.

"As a home shopping company, we have no shops and so the call centre represents the only way for us to keep abreast of customers' needs and to canvass views on GUS products and services," a company spokesman says.

Christine Leveson
used to be a telephonist

CHRISTINE'S A TELEPATHIST

CHRISTINE'S A TELEPATHIST

When it comes to Advanced Call Centres, we're ringing the changes. Because on Merseyside, we're talking complete, state-of-the-art Communications Centres.

These comprise the skills of an available, cost-effective workforce of highly talented, multi-lingual people. Many of whom have recently graduated in business, language or IT related degrees from one of the city's three Universities.

And the most advanced communications technology available from market leaders such as Telewest, Norweb, BT and GPT.

Already the likes of Abbey National, Telewest, BT, Littlewoods and Owens Corning have found Merseyside the answer to their needs.

So if you're looking for service beyond the call, call us now.

For further information about Communications Centres on Merseyside telephone

0800 22 0151

E-mail: merseyp@nail.cybase.co.uk

KIRKSTON

Merseyside

MERSEYSIDE

Exceptional Workforce Multi-Lingual Skills Call Centres Advanced Call Centres... Communications Centres... Back Office... Service Centres...

For service beyond the call, open a new Communications Centre on Merseyside.

When it comes to Advanced Call Centres, we're ringing the changes. Because on Merseyside, we're talking complete, state-of-the-art Communications Centres.

These comprise the skills of an available, cost-effective workforce of highly talented, multi-lingual people. Many of whom have recently graduated in business, language or IT related degrees from one of the city's three Universities.

And the most advanced communications technology available from market leaders such as Telewest, Norweb, BT and GPT.

Already the likes of Abbey National, Telewest, BT, Littlewoods and Owens Corning have found Merseyside the answer to their needs.

So if you're looking for service beyond the call, call us now.

For further information about Communications Centres on Merseyside telephone

0800 22 0151

E-mail: merseyp@nail.cybase.co.uk

MERSEYSIDE

A pool of talent

Fast link is a good bet for football

ISDN

THE World Cup will be the busiest period in the history of Sporting Index, a London firm specialising in a form of gambling called sports spread betting, which expects to take £10 million in bets during the football tournament. Craig Seton writes.

As the firm's clients place their bets over the telephone, having a reliable telephone system will be critical during the World Cup between June 10 and July 12.

That is why, in April, the firm installed an Integrated Services Digital Network (ISDN) telephone system capable of handling 200 simultaneous calls from clients dialling one number, backed up by an electronic queueing system.

The firm, formed in 1992, is based in Kennington, South London, and ordered the ISDN equipment from BT to replace a system that left too many clients unable to get through.

ISDN is a digital system that allows information to be sent and received by voice, data, images and video at speeds and with a clarity that BT says is equivalent to a private network.

Spread betting involves clients betting against predictions made by the company on almost any aspect of sporting events — such as how many corners will occur during a football match.

Sporting Index, with 10,000 clients, says it has 50 per cent of the UK spread betting market, which as a whole involves 27,000 calls a week.

Businesses can now install an ISDN link for the same price as a standard business telephone line and many small businesses are now taking advantage of the facility.

Julian Barker, the marketing manager, says: "The ISDN system has revolutionised the accessibility of our clients; it enables us to absorb a high volume of business from a large client base at a rapid pace."

David Mackenzie takes a look at how call centres, computer telephony and the Internet are set to change business

Net working for your firm's future

CONVERGING TECHNOLOGY

Call centres, computer telephony and the Internet are all regarded as fast-growing areas of business. Recent developments have meant that they are now converging to alter the way in which businesses operate.

The suppliers to the call centres are also changing the way in which they work. For example, Aspect Telecommunications — traditionally known as a supplier of telephone switches for the call centre — has now changed the way in which it describes itself.

It says: "Aspect helps businesses communicate with their remote customers in the most effective and cost-efficient ways."

This is interesting because there is no mention of telephony! What has taken place to bring about this change in view? Two or three recent developments in Internet technology are likely to revolutionise the way in which we communicate and, in particu-

lar, in the way that we do business in the future.

The first is the ability to send voice over the Internet. Voice over internet protocol (VoIP) allows voice to be sent through a conventional Internet connection, bypassing the telephone network.

Secondly, Internet "push" technology allows data to be pushed to someone browsing on the Internet rather than them having to ask for it. Thirdly, it is possible to share applications across an Internet connection allowing both the caller and the agent to interact.

What this means is that the way in which we interact with a company is set to change radically. With a conventional call centre you talk over the phone. It is purely an auditory experience. You speak, the agent speaks and that is how you interact. While very effective for some types of activity it only works for simple transactions. If a lot of information needs to be exchanged then it takes too long to impart. With

the new Internet technologies it is possible to both talk to the call centre, and use a Web browser to share information.

As an example, you could be looking at your bank's Web site and retrieve account information. If you then want to speak to an agent you can press a button and be connected to the agent, either via the standard telephone, or using VoIP.

The agent can then talk to you, but can also use "push" technology to guide you to other pages on the Internet. Suppose you want to compare the bank's products with someone else's. The agent could take you to that other bank's pages, and explain the benefits of its bank's products. The application sharing described also means that both the agent and the caller can, for example, draw on the Web page and the other person will see what is

happening. For example, if there is an element on a bank statement that wasn't understood then the caller could highlight it by drawing a circle round it and the agent would then see which element they meant. That is much easier than trying to describe it.

Video is another component

overall effect is to change the interaction with a call centre from audio only into a multimedia experience using both audio and visual methods, and both static and dynamic information.

Why should companies use this technology? One key factor is that the Web currently is not proving to be an effective sales channel.

Last Christmas, 130 merchants set up a Web site called eChristmas to promote gifts for Christmas. It had 250,000 visitors, 14,000 registered with site, but it sold only 350 items!

People simply did not trust it as a way of doing business.

People trust an agent they can talk to. It may also be an easier way of communicating with callers as it will allow callers to perform more complex transactions than are possible over the telephone alone.

The way in which we interact with a company is about to alter

that can be used over the Internet. Once a connection with the Internet is established, then it would also be possible to send video to the caller.

This would allow an agent to show a caller how something worked, rather than having to describe it. The

Cost saving is obviously important. We are all familiar with the phrase "a picture saves a thousand words" and for a call centre time is money.

The use of the Internet also allows an element of self-service. If callers visit the Web site they may be able to get all the information they require without telephoning the call centre. If there is information that needs to be supplied, this can be done by filling in a form on the Web rather than telling an agent who types it in.

When the caller connects to the call centre the information supplied is automatically sent across. This can save both the agent and the caller time on the phone.

Finally, a feature peculiar to the Internet is the ability to leave information on a caller's PC that will identify them to the call centre the next time they call.

This is done through the use of "cookies", a small piece of data that is sent to the browser and stored on the caller's PC. How practical is all this at

the moment? There is little to stop companies working in this way now. The use of Web pages, buttons to connect to the call centre, and application sharing are all possible.

Aspect has a product called Web Agent that allows this. Microsoft gives away Net-Meeting, a general purpose conferencing product. Genesys Labs supports the Internet through its Net-Vectoring software and other companies do the same.

VoIP still suffers from some quality and delay problems, but these are rapidly being overcome. Finally, the use of IP with its ability to be used for voice, data and video over a single connection is a much more flexible way of connecting to a call centre than simple telephony.

Although the telephone is easy to use and widely available now, the flexibility of the Internet means it looks likely to be the communications method of the future.



Lingua franca: videophones may let the deaf make calls even to those who can hear

Digital sign of the times

Sue Spenceley Burch on how the latest technology can help the deaf

VIDEOPHONES

IT seems ironic that Alexander Graham Bell invented the telephone 120 years ago after studying speech and deafness and yet only now is it benefiting the deaf.

Until recently the deaf could only use a Minicom terminal, composed of a keyboard and screen. Many deaf people find it invaluable to talk with each other and with businesses that provide Minicom-based customer services. But few hearing people have Minicom.

In 1991, the Royal National Institute for the Deaf (RNID) launched Typetalk, to help the deaf communicate with the hearing. Funded by BT, Typetalk has 520 operators relaying talk between deaf and hearing people. The deaf person contacts Typetalk via Minicom. The operator makes the call and explains the service to the hearing recipient. The deaf users type their part of the conversation, which is read to the hearing persons by the operators, who type back their reply. The centre operates 24 hours a day, and handles 500,000 calls a month.

Typetalk user Rosalind German is

profoundly deaf. She says: "It has made a big difference. Now I can call anyone anytime — and they can contact me."

Reg McLoughlin, outreach manager at Typetalk, says: "One of the longest calls we have handled was a three-hour conversation with the Samaritans. Hearing people often start out a bit nervous, but then after one or two calls they find it easy and start to speak to the deaf person, rather than saying to the operator 'can you tell him?'"

Typetalk relies on English, a language not all deaf people use fluently. Many use British Sign Language (BSL) — a language with its own vocabulary and grammar. New videophone technology could allow deaf people to communicate with each other and with hearing people.

Last month the RNID launched a pilot scheme to set up videotelephones. A BSL user will be able to meet a hearing person at a public videophone and be connected

to an interpreter. Rosanna Preston is project manager. "Currently a BSL user may need to book an interpreter two weeks ahead. Videotelephony will make better use of resources and we hope to provide 24-hour service."

The RNID has been given 30 PC-based videophones by BT, and will place them in Citizens Advice Bureaux, libraries and hospitals. The scheme also aims to link into existing videophone resources.

With ISDN, videophones driven by powerful computers are emerging. Rob Jackson, an electronic communications engineer with the RNID, believes that videophones for everyone are not far away. "Penetration is limited by ISDN connections. BT is cabling as fast as it can and is working on a technology that may make phonedlines compatible with ISDN."

Another videophone project is SignWorks, that uses high-resolution videophones, produced by Motion Media Technology, to support deaf people who run businesses.

You've trusted another company to talk to your customers.

How do you feel?

There's a lot to be said for outsourcing your customer management requirements, but you cannot afford to go into such a partnership with your fingers crossed.

The telebusiness company which provides your call centre doesn't just represent your company, as far as your customers are concerned it is your company.

Understanding and accepting this critical responsibility to our clients and their customers has enabled SITEL to build the most successful telebusiness service in the UK.

And that's why leading companies across

a wide range of industries including utilities, financial services and communications trust us to talk with their customers.

To find out more about how we work with our clients and the full range of services we offer call our Communications Centre on 0800 747 107.

SITEL CORPORATION
We speak your language.

Email: info@sitel.co.uk Website: http://www.sitel.net

OPEN YOUR MIND

In your mind, you may believe you have a good relationship with your customers...

...but are you maximising their potential? Empower your call centre agents to anticipate and predict situations and challenges.

This is the Genesys effect.



GENESYS

"It's more like telepathy than telephony."

Genesys Telecommunications - Europe Ltd
Alba House, Mulberry Business Park, Fishponds Road,
Wokingham, Berkshire, RG41 2GY, England
Tel: (041) 90 115 274 7000

The World's Leading Supplier of Customer Interaction Networks

Equities hold steady

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

1998	Low	High	Company	Price	% Chg	P/E
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES						
66	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
67	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
68	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
69	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
70	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
71	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
72	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
73	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
74	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
75	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
76	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
77	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
78	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
79	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
80	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
81	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
82	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
83	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
84	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
85	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
86	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
87	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
88	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
89	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
90	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
91	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
92	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
93	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
94	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
95	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
96	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
97	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
98	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
99	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
100	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
101	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
102	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
103	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
104	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
105	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
106	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
107	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
108	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
109	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
110	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
111	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
112	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
113	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
114	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
115	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
116	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
117	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
118	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
119	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
120	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
121	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
122	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
123	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
124	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
125	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
126	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
127	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
128	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
129	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
130	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
131	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
132	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
133	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
134	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
135	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
136	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
137	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
138	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
139	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
140	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
141	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
142	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
143	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
144	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
145	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
146	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
147	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
148	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
149	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
150	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
151	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
152	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
153	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
154	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
155	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
156	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
157	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
158	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
159	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
160	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
161	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
162	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
163	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
164	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
165	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
166	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
167	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
168	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
169	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
170	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
171	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
172	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
173	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
174	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
175	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
176	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
177	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
178	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
179	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
180	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
181	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
182	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
183	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
184	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
185	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
186	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
187	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
188	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
189	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
190	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
191	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
192	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
193	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
194	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
195	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
196	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
197	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
198	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
199	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
200	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
201	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
202	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
203	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
204	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
205	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
206	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
207	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
208	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
209	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
210	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
211	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
212	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
213	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
214	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
215	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
216	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
217	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
218	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
219	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
220	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
221	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
222	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
223	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
224	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
225	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
226	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
227	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
228	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
229	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
230	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
231	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
232	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
233	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
234	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
235	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
236	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
237	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
238	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14
239	50	50	Altria Group	60 1/2	3 1/2	41.14

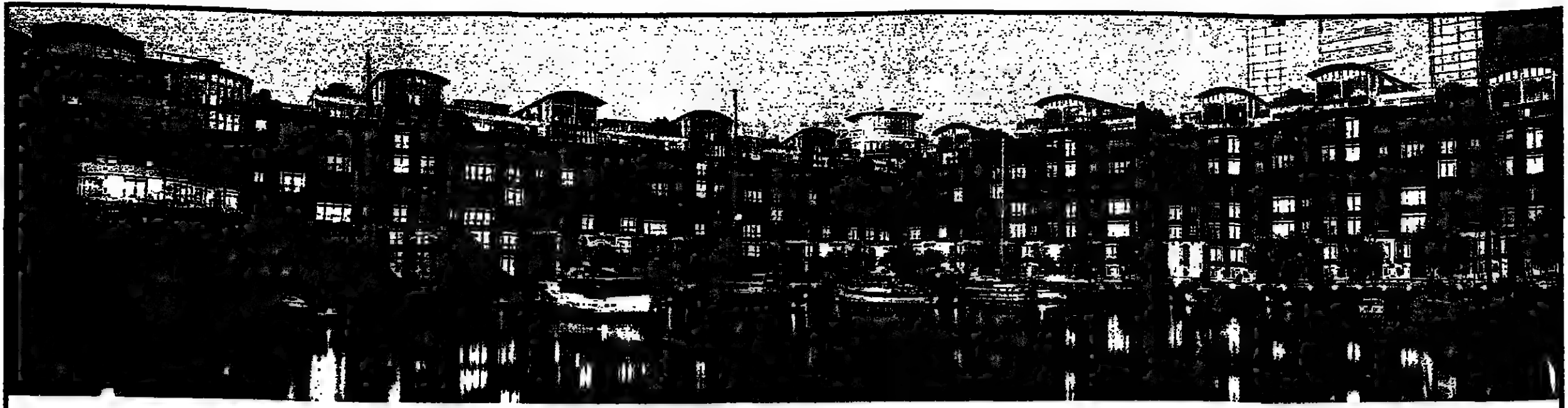
Join the network that performs better

Call the Orange Business Team on 0800 633 3330

Join the
network that
performs better

Call the Orange Business Team on
0800 731 3330


0800 731 3330



New apartments for sale at St Katharine's Dock

Genuinely spacious south and west facing apartments all with large balconies and marina views, prices from £250,000. For further information please call the on-site sales office on **0171 481 9898** or fax on **0171 481 0364**. email: stephen.edwards@taywood.co.uk

FPDSavills
Sales & Lettings
0171 456 6800



SUNLIGHT SQUARE
BETHNAL GREEN E2

FIRST PUBLIC LAUNCH
CALL NOW FOR INVITATION


Brand new luxury apartments in a traditional landscaped square
JUST 5 MINUTES FROM POOL STREET

- FULLY FITTED AND APPLIANCED KITCHENS • GAS CENTRAL HEATING
- CONCIERGE • SECURE PARKING • 10 YEAR NHBC GUARANTEE
- ALL CREATURE COMFORTS! • READY TO MOVE IN LATE JULY!

1 BED APARTMENTS FROM ONLY **£59,995**
2 BED APARTMENTS FROM ONLY **£84,995**

...you'd be barking mad to miss the launch!... Woof! Woof!

luxury apartments with a unique perspective on the millennium




Prices from £49,000* GRAND OPENING 11am-5pm Saturday 13th June 1998
1, 2 & 3 bedroom apartments
Finished to a high specification
Excellent letting opportunity
*1 bedroom apartment
*if applicable

FPDSavills
0171 456 6800

GREENWICH HEIGHTS
BAKER ROAD LONDON SE18

THE GRAND COUNTRY LIFE IN A BEAUTIFUL APARTMENT



NASHDOM, NASHDOM LANE, BURNHAM, BUCKS

The magnificent apartments and houses at Nashdom give you the opportunity to acquire a unique home in this historic country house. The impressive mansion was designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens for a Russian Prince and built in 1909. Set in 17 acres of gardens and woodland, currently undergoing careful restoration and renovation, Nashdom offers some of the most desirable apartments you will ever see.

- Superb amenities include heated outdoor swimming pool, gymnasium and tennis court.
- Porterage, video entry, electric gates and private parking available.
- New East Wing, luxury 2 & 3 bedroom apartments available. Prices from £235,000
- Newly released West Wing, 3 and 4 bedroom houses in a beautiful courtyard setting. Prices from £290,000
- 10 year NHBC warranty.

SALES OFFICE OPEN FROM THURSDAY TO MONDAY INCLUSIVE BETWEEN 10 AM - 5 PM TEL: 01628 663435

HAMPTONS

NEW HOMES

Westbury
At Traherne Village, Penylan

cardiff

Westbury is building a selection of 4 and 5 bedroom detached executive homes from their exclusive Village Range. With prices from £200,000 you can be assured of their quality. Telephone today for a brochure

TRAHERNE VILLAGE, OFF LILLYMAN ROAD, PENYLAN
SALES OFFICE OPEN 7 DAYS, 11AM - 6PM
TELEPHONE (01222) 483064

NORTH OF THE THAMES

CHESWICK W4
BURNHAM PARK

Two best, detached homes in prime location. Light & airy. 4 bedrooms, 3 bathrooms, large garden, swimming pool, tennis court, etc. Call 0171 723 9908

FREEHOLD GROUND RENTS MANAGED
* PURCHASED & SOLD *

Do you own a freehold ground rent where all the flats were sold? If so, as a landlord you have legal obligations to perform certain duties. Our FREEHOLD PROPERTY CO specialise in the MANAGEMENT purchase and sale of ground rents. For further information please telephone or fax.

Tel: 0171 792 9283
Fax: 0171 792 1903

ATTENTION!

2 BEDROOM WITH LARGE BALCONIES FROM ONLY £144,995

HUTCHINGS WHARF
DESIGNED BY PROCTER MATTHEWS

FOR DETAILS CALL 0171 363 8888

NORTH OF THE THAMES

MAIRIE ARCH 3 bed 2 bath, 100 sq. ft. garden, 76 sq. ft. terrace, 1990, 1991
Tel: 0171 723 9908

NEW Large 4 bed house, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, 1996, 1997, 1998
Tel: 0171 723 9908

ST JOHN'S WOOD
Specialist newly built 3 bedroom, 2 bathroom modern flat in a superb location with underground parking, huge private garden, overlooking country gardens. New shops & tube. No chain.

£375,000 FHL
Tel: 0171 328 3127

STAND ON THE GREEN
Vest preserved end of terrace period cottage 100 sq. ft. from the 1920s. Call 0171 723 9908

SWISS COTTAGE
Large 1 bedroom flat in good location. Call 0171 723 9908



FILM
Duvall the
director, star
and writer
PAGE 41

THE TIMES ARTS

THEATRE

Women on
top in Doug
Lucie's play

PAGE 42



Now the good news from Russia

CHRIS HARRIS

What is the refined, classical-music word for "gob-smacked"? Whatever it is, I was it. Last Thursday I sat in a drawing room in Moscow and listened — first with incredulity, then with something dangerously close to elation — as a succession of Russian kids ran through their party pieces.

But these were no ordinary party pieces, nor ordinary kids. Ferocious Rachmaninov preludes were hurled out by the fistful. A Bach partita was fiddled into exquisite life by a bespectacled wisp of a boy. A Vivaldi recorder concerto flashed by, powered with mercurial exuberance by a lad hardly bigger than his own instrument. And the avant-garde snorts and snarls of a contemporary Russian composer were essayed with supreme confidence by a 14-year-old girl on the saxophone.

The intensity and passion exhibited in this amazing parade were what hit me most forcefully. Go into any specialist music school in the world and you can hear technically accomplished prodigies rattling out their repertoire. But this was different. These Russian kids play as if every note is a matter of life and death. Perhaps it is. In the impoverished chaos of post-Communist Russia, a supreme musical talent remains one of the few hard currencies: a route upwards; a rare source of joy in a glum land.

The kids I heard were just a handful of the 500 or more who have been nurtured and promoted during the past eight years by a Russian philanthropic organisation called New Names. Founded by Ivetta Voronova, an indefatigable Moscow arts patron, and chaired by the chess champion Anatoly Karpov, New Names raises private and public funds in Russia and abroad. The money enables its scouts to search Russia and other CIS coun-

In Moscow Richard Morrison reports on a dazzling new generation of Russian teenage musical prodigies, performing in London later this month

tries for the cream of the rising artistic talent — not only instrumental prodigies, but dancers, singers and painters as well. Only the brightest are invited to audition. And of them, a mere four in every hundred are offered the scholarships, travel grants, summer schools and free instruments that the organisation can provide.

It's a ruthlessly elitist scheme: children who don't develop well are simply dropped. But its organisers make no apology for that. "We have a saying in Russia," says Nina Makarova, one of the music professors managing New Names. "It's the talented who need help: the talented will always be able to make themselves comfortable."

This month, five of New Names' stunning young musicians are being presented in concert at the Barbican. Every generation of Western music-lovers discovers and lionises its own Russian virtuosos. For our grandparents it was Horowitz and Heifetz; for our parents, Oistrakh, Rostropovich and Richter. In our own day, Bashmet, Kisin and Vengerov have maintained the proud tradition. The curious will crowd into the Barbican

on June 16 in the hope of hearing the new Horowitz, or a Heifetz for the 21st century. They won't feel short-changed.

Some New Names scholarship holders are already mature artists. The 20-year-old clarinetist Igor Fedorov, who plays with a potent mixture of explosive energy and unfaltering control, already has lucrative solo engagements in the West. "For them, I normally charge £1,200 per performance," he says. "I must support my family." His father, a chorus singer in the Bolshoi Opera for the past 30 years, earns just £50 a week.

Fedorov will be coming to the Barbican, as will a wonderfully subtle 19-year-old pianist called Alexander Gindin, who sails through Rachmaninov with terrific panache. Three years ago he became one of the youngest prizewinners ever in the Tchaikovsky Competition.

But the other Barbican performers are much younger. The pianist Juliana Avdeeva is just 12, though she has already won prizes at two international competitions. Her parents thought long and hard before putting her in for the hothouse training of the celebrated Gnessin School of Music in

Moscow. "Because her father and I both studied music and I both studied music for a long time, we knew that it is a very difficult way of life," says Juliana's mother, now a radio journalist. "But from her first lessons, at the age of five, Juliana excelled. It was clear what her path should be."

But that path will be tough. The Russians work their child prodigies extremely hard: the greater the talent, the greater the discipline to be imposed. I asked Fedorov what he did for a hobby. He looked incredulous. "Music is my hobby. I have no free time. Always many new pieces. I spend ten hours with my clarinet every day."

And that discipline will be imposed through 11 years of music school and five years of conservatoire. It takes a particularly intense relationship with music for children to prosper under this regime — especially as the rewards for Russian musicians who come successfully through the training seem ever more uncertain. The Soviet Union had its faults, to put it mildly, but it did guarantee musicians a secure income. Today, that safety net has gone. "We are poor," says Makarova. "The state support for music education is dwindling; sponsorship hardly exists."

Without New Names, many of these incredible young talents would simply go unrecognised and undeveloped, particularly as most come from poor backgrounds. Their parents, in general, are cultured professionals — teachers, lecturers, musicians tied to tiny salaries that barely cover the essentials. For the sake of their children, many make huge sacrifices.

Take the case of Gaik Gazaryan, a frighteningly poised 15-year-old violinist who is coming to the Barbican. His family uprooted and made the vast trek from Armenia to Moscow two years ago, solely in order for Gaik to study at the Conservatoire. His father, an electronics engineer, would have studied music himself as a boy, but was forced into a more "useful" profession. "I have tried to give my son what I couldn't have," he says.

Another New Names prodigy, a 12-year-old pianist called Olga Kozlova — who plays Beethoven with a fervour that would be remarkable coming from a performer twice her age — had to be given special financial support. Both her parents are blind.

The difficulties are multiplying daily. There are two great music schools in Moscow: the Gnessin and the Conservatoire's Central Music School. Last week the Ministry of Culture decided that the latter will probably close: the money is simply not there. It has existed for 100 years.

For its pupils, including the 14-year-old cellist Alexander Bouzlov (the last of the Barbican performers) the news is disastrous. "We are not even thinking about staying in Moscow," says Nikolaus, his father, a language teacher. "Most of the best Russian cello teachers are working in the West already."

Contemplating an ever-wobblier rouble, income tax at 70 per cent and interest rates at 150 per cent, Nikolaus Bouzlov sees his son's future hanging by a thread. "Our only chance now is a grant for Alexander to travel abroad to a good teacher."

The prospect of Russia's finest performers, music professors and child prodigies defecting westward is nothing new, of course. The wandering Russian virtuoso has been a feature of Western musical life for a century or more. Nor is there any chance of the supply of Slavonic musical geniuses suddenly drying up. My own observations convinced me that the reservoir of talent is pretty well bottomless.

The real danger is that Russia's magnificent, feisty prodigies — cocooned and smothered for so long under the Soviet system — will now wither in poverty and obscurity. The New Names initiative throws them a lifeline. It's the best news to come out of Russia this year. These kids are something special. Go and judge for yourself.



From Red Square to the Barbican: the young musical prodigies Alexander Bouzlov, Juliana Avdeeva, Gaik Gazaryan and Igor Fedorov step out for their London date

OPERA: Simon Keenlyside tells Hilary Finch about an all-dancing *L'Orfeo*

With the hoofers in Hades

The rehearsal schedules had changed yet again. Calf muscles had been torn. And the sackbuts of Hades were tuning morosely in the royal box. The healing power of Orpheus and his lute certainly seemed to be blocked. But then a full moon rose, and a man fell to earth. The spheres were renewed: the singing began. And Monteverdi's music itself gradually started to become visible in movement.

The American choreographer Trisha Brown has something of a reputation for creating dance on rooftops, on the edge of Manhattan buildings — even up and down ladders. But with Monteverdi's *L'Orfeo*, which arrives in London today after opening in Brussels at La Monnaie, Brown makes her debut as an opera director. Four years ago she created her first work to classical music: a 55-minute dance set to Bach's *Musical Offering* was quickly followed by *Twelve Tone Rose* for Webern. For *Orfeo*, though, Brown has had to create an entirely new movement vocabulary, capable of reinforcing the emotional power of the music without interfering with the performers' ability to sing.

The English baritone Simon Keenlyside, cast in the title role, found himself being drawn into workshops, classes and rehearsals over a period of eight months with ten dancers from Brown's company. "And they know the entire piece inside out. All the words. I only wish they did more of the dancing themselves. But Trisha has deferred so much to the singers. She is so

considerate — and so extraordinarily inventive."

Francesco Gonzaga, at the court of Mantua, had commissioned Monteverdi to write *L'Orfeo* as entertainment for the carnival season of 1607. In an archetypal moment of *deus ex machina* flamboyance, the opera customarily ends with the heavens opening and the apotheosis of Orfeo in the company of Apollo, Eurydice and other heavenly bodies. But at the very first performance things were darker. Monteverdi's libretto clung closer to the original myth and had *Orfeo* torn to pieces by the Bacchantes. I shan't tell you how, but Brown cunningly enjoys the best — and the worst — of both worlds.

"Behind every move we make," says Keenlyside, "there's a lifetime of experience. Brown is a real master. I

find myself reflecting, discussing things that I couldn't even begin to address with most directors or musicians. I can honestly say I've never enjoyed the whole process so much before."

This is also Keenlyside's first Monteverdi opera. "It's like chamber music: that's what I love about it. You have to pace yourself and listen to yourself as you would in a recital. There are times when you're totally naked, as it were, singing to the accompaniment of a single lute." René Jacobs is the master of music, and the players and singers of his Concerto Vocale and Collegium Vocale must be every bit as formidable as colleagues as Brown's dance company. "Well, yes. They know you're not one of them, and they're absolutely OK about it. As long as you can produce something that's truly interesting, Jacobs is one of the few remaining old-fashioned specialists. We're all spread so thinly these days. Only when you work with someone of his calibre do you realise what you've been missing."

Keenlyside is never happier than when talking about someone other than himself. In fact, these are just about the only conditions in which this elusive baritone will agree to be interviewed at all. Ask him about his own career — which has spanned Count Almaviva, Pelléas, Figaro, Gaglianone, Papageno, Yeltsky, in Geneva, San Francisco, Sydney, Berlin, Paris, New York, Covent Garden, to say nothing of Schubert, Schumann, Wolf — and he will reply, "Oh, we can do that in five minutes. I really never expect to be singing in any of those places. I just love singing. That's all there is to it. But I don't want it to take over my life. If the balance gets wrong, there's no point. Singing's a reflection of life, that's all."

And life for Keenlyside is every bit as much about long silent walks in West Wales and travelling in India — in the drenching heart of the monsoon season if at all possible. "If there's too much singing and not enough life, you simply run out of things to sing about." In his current incarnation as *Orfeo*, that seems to be just about the remotest possibility of them all.



Simon Keenlyside: "If there's too much singing and not enough life, you simply run out of things to sing about"

AN EXCLUSIVE READER OFFER THE TIMES

10 AUDIOBOOKS AT ONLY £1.98 EACH



This week *The Times*, in association with Hodder Headline, offers readers who want to escape from World Cup fever, the chance to buy up to ten audiobooks at only £1.98 each. The range includes something for everyone and all the audiobooks are read by leading actors and actresses. They include Kenneth Branagh, Orson Welles, Derek Jacobi, Nigel Hawthorne and Geraldine James. Simply collect four differently numbered tokens out of the six published in *The Times* this week. You can choose a minimum of two, but only one of each title, from the £1.98 titles listed below.

Plus save 50% on 20 other titles

There are also a further 20 audiobooks which you can purchase at half price. They include Dickie Bird's autobiography, poetry by William Blake and novels by Enid Blyton, Charles Dickens, Mary Wesley and Ed McBain. For these you do not need tokens and you can order as many as you wish.

THE TIMES/HODDER HEADLINE AUDIOBOOKS AT £1.98

Tick each audiobook required and enclose four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* per order plus a cheque/PO for £1.98 per audiobook. You must order at least two but only one of any title

Disc	Ref	TITLE/Author/Read by	RRP
	01	EMMA by Jane Austen/Kate Beckinsdale	£1.98
	02	POETS FOR PLEASURE: JOHN BETJEMAN/Nigel Hawthorne	£1.98
	03	GALTON & SIMPSON'S THE RADIO HAM/with Paul Merton	£1.98
	04	TAO TE CHING/Anon/Nigel Hawthorne	£1.98
	05	THE MAID OF BUTTERMERE by Melvyn Bragg/Melina Hamilton	£1.98
	06	THE END OF SUMMER by Rosamunde Pilcher/Geraldine James	£1.98
	07	CASTING OFF by Libby Purves/author	£1.98
	08	FRANKENSTEIN by Mary Shelley/with Kenneth Branagh	£1.98
	09	ADVENTURES OF HARRY LIME/with Orson Welles	£1.98
	10	LEPER OF ST GILES by Eila Peters/Derek Jacobi	£1.98

Mr/Ms/Miss/Ms Initials Surname

Address

Postcode

THE TIMES AUDIOBOOKS

TOKEN 3

If you would prefer not to receive information and offers from organisations carefully selected by *The Times*, please tick

THE TIMES/HODDER HEADLINE HALF PRICE AUDIOBOOKS

Please enter quantity of each half-price audiobook you wish to purchase. No tokens are required for this part of the offer

Qty	Ref	TITLE/Author/Read by	RRP	Young
11	DOES MY BUN LOOK BIG IN THIS? by Angela Wier/author	£2.99	£4.49	
12	MICROSER by Ed Wharton/Chane Lunge	£8.99	£4.49	
13	THE BUCCHINERS by Ed Wharton/Chane Lunge	£8.99	£4.49	
14	PART OF THE FURNITURE by Mary Shelley/Anna Massey	£8.99	£4.49	
15	THE PRINCE AND THE PILGRIM by Mary Shelley/Hannah Gordon	£8.99	£4.49	
16	THE AGE HOUSE by Melvyn Bragg/Deirdre Lang	£8.99	£4.49	
17	NICHOLAS NICKLEBY by Charles Dickens/Martin Jarvis	£8.99	£4.49	
18	THE GOLDEN BRIDLE by Melvyn Bragg/Geraldine James	£8.99	£4.49	
19	THE GLASS LAKE by Melvyn Bragg/Kate Beckinsdale	£12.99	£3.99	
20	FAMOUS FIVE and other stories by Enid Blyton/author	£7.99	£3.49	
21	WHEN THE POOL by A.A Milne/Stephen Fry, Judi Dench, Geoffrey Palmer & Jane Horrocks	£7.99	£3.99	
22	WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND by Mary Shelley/Hannah Gordon	£8.99	£4.49	
23	THE CAMOUFLAGE LARK by Mary Shelley/Hannah Gordon	£8.99	£4.49	
24	THE DIARY OF SAMUEL JOHNSON 1791-1809/Kenneth Branagh	£8.99	£4.49	
25	POSTMAN PAT GETPACK by John Cunliffe/Ken Berry & Charles Boyd	£14.99	£7.49	
26	DICKIE BIRD: Autobiography/author	£8.99	£4.49	
27	THE TALK OF THE TOWN by André O'Hanlon/author	£8.99	£4.49	
28	BEST OF SHENLOCK HOLMES VOL 4/3rd Arthur Conan Doyle/Orson Welles	£8.99	£4.49	
29	HORRATOR HORROR 2/3 C S Forester/Michael Redgrave	£8.99	£4.49	
30	POETS FOR PLEASURE: WILLIAM BLAKE/Nigel Hawthorne	£8.99	£4.49	

I enclose a cheque/PO for £ payable to Bookpoint Ltd.

Send to: The Times/Hodder Headline Audiobook Offer, PO Box 69, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 7ZD. Inquiries: 01525 853399

Offer open to residents of the UK, Channel Islands and the Isle of Man only. Up to 10 audiobooks from the £1.98 selection can be ordered by sending four differently numbered tokens from *The Times* and £1.98 per audiobook. A minimum of two audiobooks at £1.98 must be ordered but only one of each title. No tokens are required to order the half-price books and you may purchase as many as you wish. No photocopies of tokens or application forms permitted. Please allow 30 days for delivery. Closing date for orders is Friday July 10, 1998. The offer is subject to availability. Hodder Headline reserves the right to substitute an appropriate title. Inquiries: 01525 853399

CHANGING TIMES

June 1998

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3 1998
TRE
on
Doug
s play
42
Russia

An apostle at large in Hollywood

Matt Wolf meets Robert Duvall, the Oscar-winning actor who turned writer and director for his latest film

There are some things one just doesn't expect from the American cinema, and a serious film about religion could be said to be among them. One can readily imagine a patronising response to the topic made by a scornful New York liberal elite or, conversely, a rabble-rousing statement backed by the Religious Right. Robert Duvall's *The Apostle*, amazingly, is neither. It is a moving and passionate film that respects its highly charged subject without sentimentalising it. And it cost its writer-director-star nearly \$5 million of his own money to make.

"It's been accepted by the secular hip community — the film people — and by the religious people as well, and they're the toughest," says the 67-year-old Duvall. "I feel I'm a better person for making the movie: there's a certain sense of accomplishment that maybe I've made something that matters."

In March Duvall was a dark-horse favourite to win the best actor Oscar for his stirring performance as Sonny Dewey, otherwise known as the Apostle, an evangelical Texan who takes to the road (he ends up in Cajon territory in Louisiana) after bashing his wife's lover with a baseball bat. Duvall lost the Oscar to fellow veteran Jack Nicholson for a film, *As Good As It Gets*, that Duvall says he hasn't even seen. "I wait for the videos," he says of his attitude to seeing movies.

But despite his also-ran Oscar status, he secured a place as an American auteur who may come closer than he realises to justifying the oft-quoted claim that Duvall, whose films include *The Godfather* and *Apocalypse Now*, is "the American Olivier".

"That was nice, you know,"

"I believe in Jesus Christ and His teachings"

the actor says modestly of the compliment. "It's nice to be compared to any talent." But what the accolade prompts mostly in an impromptu (and hilariously spot-on) impersonation of his esteemed co-star in both *The Seven Percent Solution* and, less memorably, *The Betsy*. "Here we are in Hardiman Manor in Michigan," quotes Duvall, sending up Olivier at his hammiest in the 1978 film based on Harold Robbins's potboiler. "Oh, sorry, love," Duvall reports Olivier asking, "what's my next line?"

Duvall, for his part, has spoken as many lines as he seems to have had careers, starting out as an off-Broadway theatre actor amid the vibrant New York stage of the 1950s — he was in the original

cast of Arthur Miller's *A View From the Bridge* — and making his screen debut in the 1962 film, *To Kill A Mockingbird*, as the charismatic Boo Radley who spooks Gregory Peck's children. *Mockingbird* won an Oscar for its writer, Horton Foote, and the same Southerner brought Duvall himself an Oscar in 1983 for playing the country singer on the mend in *Tender Mercies*.

But if the American South is in Duvall's blood — he sold his Manhattan apartment four years ago in favour of a Virginia farmhouse, built in 1745 — the actor admits that he has never participated in anything like *The Apostle*. After all, it is not easy to please hard-boiled film critics as well as the zealot Pat Robertson.

"I wondered about guys like that," says Duvall, who first had the idea for his movie when a Hollywood film on a similar topic, *The Kingdom*, fell through for financial reasons some 15 years ago. "My feeling was, if you don't make a Bible movie or a miracle play, which can be corny, I don't know if they're going to accept it." In the event, no less a figure than Billy Graham called *The Apostle* "a compass pointing toward the 21st century," reports Duvall, while Robertson apparently said: "I don't know how you came up with all of this stuff; you addressed a lot of deep theological questions." So then I said, "I hung around you guys and learnt a lot."

Duvall himself comes from a Protestant background, and



Robert Duvall looks at rushes on the set of *The Apostle*: "There's a certain sense of accomplishment that maybe I've made something that matters"

was born in San Diego into an itinerant military family: his father was a rear-admiral posted to Washington DC, just prior to Pearl Harbor. Would the actor now characterise himself as religious? "I believe in Jesus Christ and His teachings, and I believe in Christianity: that's my take on it," he says quietly, no doubt reluctant to be judged just as his own film is loath to make

facile judgments. "But I think people are going to have a rude awakening when this existence is over; the afterlife isn't going to be quite as literal as they may think. I believe in more of a mental continuation."

He also believes in an eclectic diet of work, even if he has not acted on stage since the Broadway run of David Mamet's *American Buffalo*

some two decades ago. Now, he says, "I don't go to the theatre much."

Away from the likes of *The Apostle*, Duvall remains an actor for hire: he plays the adventurer, if ageing, astronaut in Mimi Leder's current *Deep Impact*, the disaster film whose \$115 million gross so far at the American box office represents the sorts of financial returns *The Apostle*

could never hope to achieve. And he appears with John Travolta and Stephen Fry in the forthcoming *A Civil Action*.

But it is the projects he is nursing that he speaks of with his own apostolic fervour. Among them are a film about a Scottish football club, in which Duvall would play the coach, and a directorial effort linking today's tango — one of

his great passions — to the Big Band era of the 1950s.

And then there is a film to be made about the four sisters of his Argentine girlfriend, Luciana Pedraza, who is four decades his junior. "It's as interesting as any Chekhov play," Duvall laughs, adding softly, "I've got a lot more things I want to do."

● *The Apostle* opens in Britain on June 12

JAZZ: Probably the best straight-ahead jazz singer in the world; Barber and Lurie do the anniversary waltz

Ella with a spot of Ginger

Was there a jazz critic in the house, Dee Dee Bridgewater asked as she began another of the knockabout routines peppered throughout her two-hour tribute to Ella Fitzgerald. The implication being, of course, that the jazz police are a solemn bunch who think all concerts should be as high-minded in their approach as *Lieder* recitals.

Bridgewater had a point, and it was obvious that a large part of the audience relished her broad humour and the rambling monologues about her urgent need to go to the lavatory. Like Carmen Lundy, she attracts a fashionable young audience — a welcome change from all those dour jazzers — who are as likely to be caught listening to soul singer Anita Baker as Sarah Vaughan.

Yet the suspicion remains that, not for the first time in her long career, the American singer risks selling herself short. While she is still stunningly attractive — she mixes

Dee Dee Bridgewater
Queen Elizabeth Hall

American sassiness with the chic of her adopted home, France — she is surely a little too old to act as if she were auditioning as a replacement for Ginger Spice.

When things fall into place, on the audacious tempo changes of *Fascinating Rhythm* or the emphatic Basie swing of *Shiny Stockings*, Bridgewater simply sounds like the best straight-ahead jazz singer in the world. But self-indulgence keeps creeping in. Just as she once followed up the superb album *Keeping Tradition* with a disc of songs by Horace Silver — great tunes, terrible lyrics — Bridgewater's judgment often seems to go awry.

Scat solos, for instance, lose their impact when they are rattled out on virtually every number. And even the gor-

geous slow reading of *Stairway to the Stars* had to be interrupted by her curious imitation of a muted trumpet. True, Fitzgerald liked to have fun with songs too — remember the likes of *A-Tisket, A-Tasket*? But I doubt that her eminence grise, the canny Norman Granz, would have allowed her quite as much leeway as this.

Bridgewater's trio provided alert backing, though. As she purred through *Cherokee*, her pianist Thierry Eliez even slipped in a deft quote from Aaron Copland's *Rodeo*.

Love for Sale was given a bold facelift, borrowing a vamp from the *Headhunters* version of another street vendor anthem, *Watermelon Man*. Bridgewater strutted around, thrusting her hips like Hugh Grant's nemesis. The hooker act went on too long but Bridgewater was in no mood to do things by halves. Her signature tune should be *All or Nothing At All*.

CLIVE DAVIS

AT THE height of the 1950s trad boom, Roger Horton, the manager of the music's stronghold, the 100 Club on Oxford Street, used to say: "Show me a banjo, and you show me a profit." Surveying a Festival Hall packed with nostalgics eager to celebrate trombonist Chris Barber's 44th anniversary as a band leader, he might have repeated the remark.

Little seemed to have changed. The band still began proceedings with New Orleans drummer Paul Barbarin's *Bourbon Street Parade* and followed it with a snappy selection of rags, stomps and blues. Unlike the fundamentalist 1950s British traditionalists, the 68-year-old trombonist takes his material from a wide variety of sources. He also countenances R&B apertures: riffsing saxophones and an electric guitar.

Such broad-mindedness served Barber well in the 1950s and it enabled him to present an attractively varied programme 40 years on. Brownie McGhee's *Corn Bread, Peas and Black Molasses* and a rarely heard Duke Ellington piece, *Immigration Blues*,

Time shows the wiser

rubbed shoulders with more conventional New Orleans fare and a three-horns-plus-harmonica visit to the inevitable *St Louis Blues*. Stalwarts of the 1950s band — trumpeter Pat Halloway, clarinetist Monty Sunshine, vocalist Lonnie Donegan — were all featured, but the real surprise was the appearance of Van Morrison. Although his contribution was not notable for its strict precision, his presence underlined the importance, in British popular music, of the Barber band's pioneering hospitality to jazz-related forms outside the prevailing orthodoxy.

JOHN LURIE — composer, saxophonist, actor, director, all-round hipster — and his band, the Lounge Lizards, are celebrating their 20th anniversary, and at the Queen

Elizabeth Hall the nine Lizards — a three-four-horn front line, plus a cellist, pianist and rhythm section — give their all. They eschew the usual jazz conventions in favour of an approach perfectly attuned to contemporary audiences: rampant eclecticism, presented with swagger and panache, but undercut with enough irony and self-parody to render it modish as well as musically stimulating.

Band members drifted on and off the stage as the music dictated, leaving, at various times, Brazilian percussionist Mauro Refosco to perform a *berimbau* feature, Tony Scherr to produce a rollicking but tight bass contribution, or Jane Scarpantoni to bow and pluck a vigorous cello improvisation. In between, the Lizards produced a thunderous wall of sound, leavened by Lurie's stridently wailing or restlessly staccato saxophone.

Music owing as much to Ornette Coleman as to *Klezmer* needs to be organised by a strong unifying personality if it is to cohere, and Lurie fitted the bill perfectly.

CHRIS PARKER

Creature comforts

POP
The Creatures
Garage, N1

TWO years ago Siouxsie Sioux announced that she was folding the Banshees "with dignity", a barbed comment on the Sex Pistols reunion tour which was winding its cynical way around Britain. Since then she has concentrated on the Creatures, the side project first launched with her drummer husband Budgie in 1981. These two London shows were a warm-up before a two-month American tour, preceding a single in July and an album in the autumn.

The denizens of the London night turned out in force in their latex and leather and they were not disappointed. Against a shimmering backdrop, a PVC-clad Siouxsie strutted her feline stuff while Budgie manufactured a percussive storm behind her.

Siouxsie, 41 last week, has blossomed from the gaunt, scary wail who set out to shock us with her bondage and swastikas into a strikingly beautiful swan. Over the years she has also learnt to sing properly and at times unveiled an almost cabaret-style croon. Thankfully, however, she has no desire to turn into Celine

Dion yet and her edgy, half-screamed, half-spoken poetic rants peppered with those distinctive, cat-like moans were as effective as ever.

The opener *Disconnected* sounded more like New York art rock than Bromley-contingent punk and Siouxsie seemed oddly subdued, but she hit her stride on *Take It Off*. This is what the Creatures do best — sparse, stripped-down melodies that are little more than a subterranean rumble underpinned by the hell-for-leather rhythmic patterns of Budgie's pounding drums with Siouxsie's deconstructed vocals sashaying over the top. The spooky *Miss The Girl* was revisited magnificently with Siouxsie spitting out every word with an icy clarity.

NIGEL WILLIAMSON

YASMINA REZAI'S NEW COMEDY TRANSFERS TO THE WEST END FOR A STRICTLY LIMITED SEASON

RSC
ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

MICHAEL EILEEN GAMBON ATKINS

THE UNEXPECTED MAN

BY YASMINA REZAI
TRANSLATED BY CHRISTOPHER HAMPTON

KEEFER SUTHERLAND
WACHO WACHO
JAMES D'ARCY
JAMES D'ARCY
JAMES D'ARCY

WITTY AND SUAVE
SUNDAY TIMES

MAGNIFICENT ACTORS AT THE TOP OF THEIR FORM
SUNDAY TELEGRAPH

DUCHESSE THEATRE
0171 494 5546
BOX OFFICE 0171 344 4444

Doing it justice

WILLIAM SCHUMAN's Third Symphony is an orchestral showpiece whose virtuosity exceeds even that of Bartók's Concerto for Orchestra or Tippet's symphonies — and it takes an orchestra of the calibre of the LSO to do it justice. It is the sort of stringently constructed, technically demanding and expressively open-hearted music that this orchestra performs with panache, bringing a brilliance rooted in precision to every slab of primary colour.

In the Toccata, the LSO cellists, led by the fine soloist Moray Welsh, threatened to outdo the entire string section with a display alternately resonant and dazzling, and raised the biggest cheer from the audience. Previn shaped a seamless and compelling performance until the work's all-too abrupt end.

While William Schuman (1910-1992) began his career playing in jazz bands and writing popular songs until his conversion to serious composition, Previn has miraculously kept every one of his many talents active throughout his career, from jazz pianist to conductor to composer of the popular — and the mildly arcane. His facility is legendary, but facile describes much of his "concert" composition, and he freely admits to writing for the moment, not for posterity.

CONCERT
LSO/Previn
Barbican

In a last-minute change he chose to begin with Bernstein's *Candide* Overture instead of *Appalachian Spring*, which was disappointingly heavy, though perhaps a better scene-setter for his own song cycle, *Honey and Rue*. The American soprano Harolyn Blackwell delivered the first two songs — which have the strong harmonic aroma of Samuel Barber's *Knowville* — with a wonderful expressive simplicity, and her rendition of the unaccompanied spiritual-like *Do you know him?* was transparent. But in those songs into which a jazz element was suggested by Toni Morrison's words, she was drowned out by the orchestra, which struggled to inject swing into a score that sagged.

In the Vocalise, which Previn rather proudly notes he rewrote from a "relentlessly dissonant" first draft in a single afternoon, he has produced a pleasant enough interlude, but the left-over dissonance on the final chord is too self-conscious — a little calling-card to remind us of his upmarket credentials.

HELEN WALLACE

GREAT BRITISH HOPES
Rising stars in the arts firmament
DAVID FARR

Age: 28
Occupation: Writer/director (theatre).
Theatrical influences and mentors: None.
So is he some kind of bolt from the blue? Hardly, he hasn't really had time to draw breath since his company Talking Tongues won the Guardian Student Drama Award at the Edinburgh Festival in 1991.

Talking Tongues, the name sounds familiar... They went on to perform at the National Theatre. Farr subsequently became artistic director of the Gate in London, where he directed 12 acclaimed productions. In his spare time he knocked off a couple of plays of his own, *Neville Southall's Washbag* (1991) and *Max Klapper: A Life in Pictures* (1996).

Any good? Director Giles Croft was so impressed by *Neville Southall's Washbag* that he commissioned Farr to write another football play, this time about Watford FC; the result is *Elton John's Glasses*, which opens next week in the West End.

Watford? That must lack a little poetry after all the *Lorca* and *Wodekind*? After directing European theatre at the Gate, Farr was actually thrilled to do a play about beer and football. "I wanted to write a very British play. I have come to love my country, which is a revelation to me."

So it's goodbye to all that pretentious foreign stuff then? No. Farr is sad that such a strong distinction exists in Britain between arty, European-style drama and native comic realism. "I am hoping that the divide will cease to exist in the next few years, and I would like to be part of it."

HETTIE JUDAH

"If this isn't the biggest hit in the West End since 'ART' I will eat my Critics' Circle membership card...
PURE THEATRICAL DELIGHT"

real inspector hound
TOM STOPPARD

black comedy
PETER SHAFFER

"THE AUDIENCE ARE REDUCED TO TRULY HELPLESS HYSTERICS"

"purest comic confectionery"

"the acting glows and sparkles - an absolute & unconditional must"

EXTENDED TO 8 AUGUST DUE TO POPULAR DEMAND

40 SEATS BY £10 AVAILABLE ON THE DAY TO PERSONAL BOOKERS
NO OTHER FORM OF DISCOUNT OR SPECIAL OFFER AVAILABLE

COMEDY THEATRE
BOX OFFICE 0171 369 1731 • CC 0171 344 4444

THEATRE
Lucie's new play
name



Enter now to win cash prizes worth £50,000

To coincide with World Cup 98 *The Times* has teamed up with Fantasy League, the original fantasy football game, to give you the chance to choose your own team from the cream of the world's footballers. Simply pick 11 players from all those who will be vying for your attention this summer - it couldn't be easier.

HOW TO PLAY
Select a team of 11 players from the list, right. You can enter any time until noon on June 10 using the hotline number below. You can only choose one player from any national team and you must select a 4-4-2 formation (a goalkeeper, four defenders, four midfielders and two strikers).

HOW TO TRANSFER
If you have already entered World Cup Fantasy League you can make as many changes to your team(s) as you wish until noon on June 9, using our transfer line below. In addition, from the start of the World Cup until noon on July 3, you will be able to make a further six transfers. After noon on June 30 you will be able to select a maximum of two players from the same national team. Call 0891 11 11 00 (Ex UK +44 990 901 4290) with your 10-digit PIN and the three-digit codes for the players you wish to transfer to hand. The transfers must result in a new team with only one player from any national team and in a 4-4-2 formation (a goalkeeper, four defenders, four midfielders and two strikers).

Assists points awarded to a team-mate making the last pass before a goal is scored. Only applicable to members of the scoring team. If the last touch before a goal is scored by a team-mate but his touch does not significantly alter the speed or direction of the ball, then two separate assists are given, one for each of the players setting up the goal. If the last touch before a goal is scored by an opposing player and it significantly alters the speed or direction of the ball, then no assist is given. In the event of a penalty, the fouled player gets an assist if the penalty is successfully scored, but not if he takes it himself in which case no assist is given. No assist is given for a player who earns a free kick which subsequently results in a goal. The decision of Fantasy League will be final on these matters.

Appearance points awarded to a defender or goalkeeper who is on the pitch for at least 45 minutes including extra time. Defenders or goalkeepers appearing in only part of a game will lose points for goals conceded while playing. If no goals are conceded while they are playing, they will be awarded a clean sheet. If they are on the field for 75 minutes or more including extra-time.

Extra Time & Penalty Shoot-Outs: extra time (golden goal) goal and assists are awarded as above. For extra time goals points are deducted against the goalkeeper and defenders as above. No points are awarded for penalty shoot-out goals.

Full details of how to check your team score will appear in *The Times* in due course. Use the list right to pick your World Cup Fantasy League team by calling our hotline on:

0891 66 55 88

(Ex UK +44 990 100 385)

Transfer hotline

0891 11 11 00

(Ex UK +44 990 901 4290)

0891 and 0899 calls cost 50p per minute.

+44 990 and +44 870 calls charged at national rate.

Helpline: 01582 702 720, weekdays 9am to 6pm.

THE SCORING SYSTEM

PLAYERS WILL SCORE POINTS AS FOLLOWS:

Goal - 3 points

Assists - 2 points

Defender/Goalkeeper Appearance - 1 point for a defender or goalkeeper

playing 45 minutes or more of a match, including extra time

Defender/Goalkeeper Clean Sheet - 3 points

(2 points for clean sheet, 1 appearance point)

Defender/Goalkeeper goal against - 1 point

© Fantasy League Limited



All information provided by Fantasy League Limited © Fantasy League Limited



THE TIMES
World Cup
fantasy league

TALK RADIO WORLD CUP COMMENTATORS

Radio's most infectious giggle, and half of the funniest football double act (with Denny Borer) since Diddle and Waddle hung up their tunics. Denny is the voice of football nuts across the country, and will help them pass on their tales of glory and woe on Talk Radio during France 98. Doesn't sit on the sidelines.

DANNY KELLY

Make Talk Radio your official World Cup Station

HOW TO ENTER

Select a team of 11 players from the footballers listed right. You can only choose one player from any national team and have to select a 4-4-2 formation (a goalkeeper, four defenders, four midfielders and two strikers). Make a note of the three-digit player codes for your 11 players. Call the hotline number right, and when prompted, tap in the player codes. You will be asked to give the name of your team (no more

than 16 characters). You will then be given a ten-digit personal identification number (PIN) - make sure you write this down and keep it safe. You will need it to check your team's progress and make any transfers. The call will last approximately seven minutes. 0891 calls cost 50p per minute. Calls from payphones cost approximately double. Calls from outside the UK (+44 990) are charged at national rate.

ENTER TODAY BY CALLING
0891 66 55 88
(Ex UK +44 990 100 385)

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

1. If you enter World Cup Fantasy League through *The Times* or *The Sunday Times* you are bound to play it within the terms and conditions of play as specified. 2. Only applications made on the official entry form or through the telephone. 3. All postal applications must be received by first post June 10, 1998. 4. The latest. The closing date for telephone entries is noon on June 10, 1998. 5. All entries made after this stage will be considered null and void. 6. There is no limit to the number of entries a person or household may make. 5. Neither *Times Newspapers Limited* nor *Fantasy League Limited* will accept responsibility for late or lost entries. 6. Indelible, non-transferable, non-refundable or incompleteness for late or lost entries. Where entry is by telephone, the complete application will not be accepted. Where entry is by telephone, the decision of *Times Newspapers Limited* is final and no correspondence will be entered into. 7. All telephone entries and services offered are by Touch-tone (DTMF) only. 8. Transfers are made by Touch-tone telephone only. 8. Entrants telephone only. Transfers are made by Touch-tone telephone only. 9. Under 18 years of age should seek parental permission before participating. 10. In the event of a player under-18 winning a prize, any monies will be held in trust on their behalf until they are 18 years old. 11. The judges decision relating to World Cup Fantasy League is final. 12. Informative and explanatory copy relating to World Cup Fantasy League form part of the terms and conditions of this game. 13. The top prize for this competition will be allocated to the player scoring the highest

number of points, second and third prizes will be allocated to those scoring second and third highest respectively. The prize prizes will be awarded to the player scoring the most points in the relevant phase. 14. In the event of there being more than one winner of any prize, a tie-breaker will apply and the winner will be considered the player whose team has accrued the most goals. 15. There is still a tie at this point the team with the most assists will be the winner. The ranking will then be effected accordingly. In the event that there is more than one winner after the tie-breaker, the prize will be shared. 16. To win a prize, the relevant team must have been in the correct format at all relevant times in order to win that prize. 17. The rules, point structure and assist awards scheme are all copyright Fantasy League Limited. No information may be reproduced in any format without prior written consent from Fantasy League Limited. 17. 0891 and 0899 calls cost 50p per minute (£1 per minute from a public phone). 0891 fax calls cost £1 per minute. 18. The competition is not open to employees of Fantasy League Limited, *Times Newspapers Limited* or associated companies, their relatives, agents or agents' relatives. 19. Full details of players available, transfer details, checklist and fax score sheets will be published in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. 20. The scoring system and rules form part of the terms and conditions. 21. *Times Newspapers Limited* and *Fantasy League Limited* reserve the right to introduce new facilities or leagues to enhance Fantasy League World Cup. Such introductions will be printed in *The Times* and *The Sunday Times* at the appropriate time.

GOALKEEPERS	DEFENDERS	MIDFIELDERS	STRIKERS
101 Carlos Rosa	201 Hector Serrano	301 Diego Simeone	401 Shaun Bartlett
102 Pablo Cavallero	202 Jose Chirri	302 Alex Ochoa	402 Sam Al-Jaber
103 Michael Konecny	203 Roberto Ayala	303 Esteban Cambiasso	403 Kevin Gallacher
104 Franz Wohlfahrt	204 Javier Zanetti	304 Claudio Reinaldo	404 Darren Jackson
105 Filip de Wilde	205 Peter Schuster	305 Wilfried Zaha	405 Scott Booth
106 Youssef El-Arabi	206 Anton Pfeiffer	306 Wolfgang Felsinger	406 Simon Donnelly
107 Carlos Valderrama	207 Wolfgang Felsinger	307 Martin Hise	407 Seo Jung-Won
108 Youssef El-Arabi	208 Martin Hise	308 Bertrand Crasson	408 Chong Yoo-Soo
109 Zdravko Zdravkov	209 Eric van Mar	309 Vito Bonifazi	409 Alfonso Peres
110 Jacques Songo'o	210 Vito Bonifazi	310 Kim Leifendro	410 Juan Antonio Pizzi
111 Nelson Tapia	211 Kim Leifendro	311 Aldair	411 Victor Barrios
112 Marcelo Ramirez	212 Aldair	312 Cahi	412 Victor Barrios
113 Oscar Cordoba	213 Cahi	313 Roberto Carlos	413 Roberto Carlos
114 Farid Mondragon	214 Roberto Carlos	314 Zé Roberto	414 Zé Roberto
115 Drazen Ladic	215 Zé Roberto	315 Junior Balado	415 Junior Balado
116 Morten Morten	216 Junior Balado	316 Andre Cruz	416 Andre Cruz
117 Mogens Krogh	217 Andre Cruz	317 Zé Carlos	417 Zé Carlos
118 David Seaman	218 Zé Carlos	318 Trifun Ivanov	418 Trifun Ivanov
119 Tim Flowers	219 Trifun Ivanov	319 Radostin Kishilev	419 Radostin Kishilev
120 Nigel Martyn	220 Radostin Kishilev	320 Gocho Ganchev	420 Gocho Ganchev
121 Peter Ruff	221 Gocho Ganchev	321 Vito Bonifazi	421 Vito Bonifazi
122 Fabian Barthel	222 Vito Bonifazi	322 Nigel Borge	422 Nigel Borge
123 Andreas Kopke	223 Nigel Borge	324 Javier Murga	424 Javier Murga
124 Oliver Kahn	224 Javier Murga	325 Ronald Fuentes	425 Ronald Fuentes
125 Srdar Vasiljevic	225 Ronald Fuentes	326 Cristian Castaneda	426 Cristian Castaneda
126 Edwin van der Sar	226 Cristian Castaneda	327 Pedro Reyes	427 Pedro Reyes
127 Alessandro Abetadeh	227 Pedro Reyes	328 Wilmer Cabrera	428 Wilmer Cabrera
128 Gianluca Pagliuca	228 Wilmer Cabrera	329 Jorge Bermudez	429 Jorge Bermudez
129 Gianluigi Buffon	229 Jorge Bermudez	330 Ivan Cordoba	430 Ivan Cordoba
130 Warren Barrett	230 Ivan Cordoba	331 Wilfried Zaha	431 Wilfried Zaha
131 Yoshikatsu Kawaguchi	231 Wilfried Zaha	332 Robert Jurek	432 Robert Jurek
132 Jongs Gempas	232 Robert Jurek	333 Steven Elie	433 Steven Elie
133 Abdelkader El Brad	233 Steven Elie	334 Igor Stanger	434 Igor Stanger
134 Willy Ochoa	234 Igor Stanger	335 Jasto Simec	435 Jasto Simec
135 Peter Ruff	235 Jasto Simec	336 Goran Juric	436 Goran Juric
136 Frode Grodas	236 Goran Juric	337 Marc Rieper	437 Marc Rieper
137 Thomas Myhre	237 Marc Rieper	338 Thomas Helmer	438 Thomas Helmer
138 Jose Luis Calleja	238 Thomas Helmer	339 Jacob Laurson	439 Jacob Laurson
139 Ruben Ruiz Diaz	239 Jacob Laurson	340 Tony Hewitt	440 Tony Hewitt
140 Bogdan Stales	240 Tony Hewitt	341 Gary Neville	441 Gary Neville
141 Florin Prunari	241 Gary Neville	342 Gerson Leal	442 Gerson Leal
142 Ivica Vucinic	242 Gerson Leal	343 Gareth Southgate	443 Gareth Southgate
143 Brian Flores	243 Gareth Southgate	344 Martin Kooze	444 Martin Kooze
144 Hana Voni	244 Martin Kooze	345 Rio Ferdinand	445 Rio Ferdinand
145 Mohammed Al-Hayasi	245 Rio Ferdinand	346 Laurent Blanc	446 Laurent Blanc
146 Kim Leifendro	246 Laurent Blanc	347 Marco Desailly	447 Marco Desailly
147 Kim Byung-Ji	247 Marco Desailly	348 Lilian Thuram	448 Lilian Thuram
148 Andoni Zubizarreta	248 Lilian Thuram	349 Stéphane Lauer	449 Stéphane Lauer
149 Roberto Carlos	249 Stéphane Lauer	350 Frank Leboeuf	450 Frank Leboeuf
150 Ali Boumellal	250 Frank Leboeuf	351 Lothar Matthaus	451 Lothar Matthaus
151 Brad Friedel	251 Lothar Matthaus	352 Jürgen Kohler	452 Jürgen Kohler
152 Casey Keller	252 Jürgen Kohler	353 Stefan Reuter	453 Stefan Reuter
153 Dragoljub Lakovic	253 Stefan Reuter	354 Thomas Helmer	454 Thomas Helmer
		355 Oksa Thon	455 Oksa Thon
		356 Markus Babbel	456 Markus Babbel
		357 Christian Wörns	457 Christian Wörns
		358 Frank de Boer	458 Frank de Boer
		359 Arthur Numan	459 Arthur Numan
		360 Michael Reiziger	460 Michael Reiziger
		361 Winston Bogarde	461 Winston Bogarde
		362 Jeroen Storm	462 Jeroen Storm
		363 Mohammed Ishakpour	463 Mohammed Ishakpour
		364 Paolo Bettini	464 Paolo Bettini
		365 Alessandro Costacurta	465 Alessandro Costacurta
		366 Fabio Capello	466 Fabio Capello
		367 Alessandro Meola	467 Alessandro Meola
		368 Giuseppe Bergomi	468 Giuseppe Bergomi
		369 Gianluca Pessotto	469 Gianluca Pessotto
		370 Massimo Mucchetti	470 Massimo Mucchetti
		371 Dorian Brown	471 Dorian Brown
		372 Frank Sincilar	472 Frank Sincilar
		373 Massimo Mucchetti	473 Massimo Mucchetti
		374 Claudio Sforza	474 Claudio Sforza
		375 Marco Desailly	475 Marco Desailly
		376 Dario Dastis	476 Dario Dastis
		377 Pavel Pardo	477 Pavel Pardo
		378 Roudine Nijbet	478 Roudine Nijbet
		379 Liche Ochoa	479 Liche Ochoa
		380 Taribo West	480 Taribo West
		381 Gaetano Badaracco	481 Gaetano Badaracco
		382 Silig Inge Ekmekbayev	482 Silig Inge Ekmekbayev
		383 Gerson Leal	483 Gerson Leal
		384 Herning Berg	484 Herning Berg
		385 Carlos Rivarolo	485 Carlos Rivarolo
		386 Francisco Arce	486 Francisco Arce
		387 Gheorghe Popescu	487 Gheorghe Popescu
		388 Dan Petrescu	488 Dan Petrescu
		389 Daniel Prodan	489 Daniel Prodan
		390 Tibor Selymes	490 Tibor Selymes
		391 Anton Dobos	491 Anton Dobos
		392 Lucas Radebe	492 Lucas Radebe
		393 Mark Fee	493 Mark Fee
		394 Ahmed Jumei	494 Ahmed Jumei
		395 Tom Boyd	495 Tom Boyd
		396 Colin Hendry	496 Colin Hendry
		397 Ollie Collier	497 Ollie Collier
		398 Tosh McKinley	498 Tosh McKinley
		399 Christian Dailly	499 Christian Dailly
		400 Matt Elliott	500 Matt Elliott
		401 Jackie McManus	501 Jackie McManus
		402 Lee Min-Sung	502 Lee Min-Sung
		403 Hwang Myung-Bo	503 Hwang Myung-Bo
		404 Ralf Aldrich	504 Ralf Aldrich
		405 Miguel Angel Nadal	505 Miguel Angel Nadal
		406 Abelardo Fernandez	506 Abelardo Fernandez
		407 Albert Ferrer	507 Albert Ferrer
		408 Sergi Barjuan	508 Sergi Barjuan
		409 Sam Trickett	509 Sam Trickett
		410 Marcello Bathia	510 Marcello Bathia
		411 Alexi Lalas	511 Alexi Lalas
		412 Shaka Mitchell	512 Shaka Mitchell
		413 Zoran Mirkovic	513 Zoran Mirkovic
		414 Miroslav Djukic	514 Miroslav Djukic
		415 Diego Simeone	515 Diego Simeone
		416 Alexi Lalas	516 Alexi Lalas
		417 Esteban Cambiasso	517 Esteban Cambiasso
		418 Juan Sebastian Veron	518 Juan Sebastian Veron
		419 Audemar Henzo	519 Audemar Henzo
		420 Peter Skog	520 Peter Skog
		421 Michael Pineda	521 Michael Pineda
		422 Joca Vando	522 Joca Vando
		423 Franky van der Elst	523 Franky van der Elst
		424 Enzo Sottil	524 Enzo Sottil
		425 Lorenzo Stalens	525 Lorenzo Stalens
		426 Mark Wilmots	526 Mark Wilmots
		427 Mico von Kerschhoren	527 Mico von Kerschhoren
		428 Gert Verheyen	528 Gert Verheyen
		429 Philippe Clement	529 Philippe Clement
		430 Leonardo	530 Leonardo
		431 Leonardo	531 Leonardo
		432 Leonardo	532 Leonardo
		433 Leonardo	533 Leonardo
		434 Leonardo	534 Leonardo
		435 Leonardo	535 Leonardo
		436 Leonardo	536 Leonardo
		437 Leonardo	537 Leonardo
		438 Leonardo	538 Leonardo
		439 Leonardo	539 Leonardo
		440 Leonardo	540 Leonardo
		441 Leonardo	541 Leonardo
		442 Leonardo	542 Leonardo
		443 Leonardo	543 Leonardo
		444 Leonardo	544 Leonardo
		445 Leonardo	545 Leonardo
		446 Leonardo	546 Leonardo
		447 Leonardo	547 Leonardo
		448 Leonardo	548 Leonardo
		449 Leonardo	549 Leonardo
		450 Leonardo	550 Leonardo
		451 Leonardo	551 Leonardo
		452 Leonardo	552 Leonardo
		453 Leonardo	553 Leonardo
		454 Leonardo	554 Leonardo
		455 Leonardo	555 Leonardo
		456 Leonardo	556 Leonardo
		457 Leonardo	557 Leonardo
		458 Leonardo	558 Leonardo
		459 Leonardo	559 Leonardo
		460 Leonardo	560 Leonardo
		461 Leonardo	561 Leonardo
		462 Leonardo	562 Leonardo
		463 Leonardo	563 Leonardo
		464 Leonardo	564 Leonardo
		465 Leonardo	565 Leonardo
		466 Leonardo	566 Leonardo
		467 Leonardo	567 Leonardo
		468 Leonardo	568 Leonardo
		469 Leonardo	569 Leonardo
		470 Leonardo	570 Leonardo
		471 Leonardo	571 Leonardo
		472 Leonardo	572 Leonardo
		473 Leonardo	573 Leonardo
		474 Leonardo	574 Leonardo
		475 Leonardo	575 Leonardo
		476 Leonardo	576 Leonardo
		477 Leonardo	577 Leonardo
		478 Leonardo	578 Leonardo
		479 Leonardo	579 Leonardo
		480 Leonardo	580 Leonardo
		481 Leonardo	581 Leonardo
		482 Leonardo	582 Leonardo
		483 Leonardo	583 Leonardo
		484 Leonardo	584 Leonardo
		485 Leonardo	585 Leonardo
		486 Leonardo	586 Leonardo
		487 Leonardo	587 Leonardo
		488 Leonardo	588 Leonardo
		489 Leonardo	589 Leonardo
		490 Leonardo	590 Leonardo
		491 Leonardo	591 Leonardo
		492 Leonardo	592 Leonardo
		493 Leonardo	593 Leonardo
		494 Leonardo	594 Leonardo
		495 Leonardo	595 Leonardo
		496 Leonardo	596 Leonardo
		497 Leonardo	597 Leonardo
		498 Leonardo	598 Leonardo
		499 Leonardo	599 Leonardo
		500 Leonardo	600 Leonardo

The first column of figures after players names shows caps; the second, goals scored for the country. This list will not be finished until all the squads of 22 have been announced. Remember you are allowed unlimited changes to your team until June 9.

RUGBY UNION
Five-try Scotland win at a canter
 Scotland XV 19-0
 England XV 13-0

England call in respected coach to prepare for Test series

Cottam will put bowlers through their paces

Michael Henderson talks to a man with a tough reputation but who gets results

Bob Cottam was stuck in a traffic jam two weeks ago when he took a call on his mobile phone. David Lloyd, the England coach, was ringing from Windermere, where members of the England and Wales Cricket Board had convened for a weekend get-together, and he wanted to know whether Cottam would like to be involved in the Test set-up.

Yesterday, on the ground where he was once the Warwickshire chief coach, and where he continues to act as a freelance bowling adviser, in conjunction with his work in a similar capacity at Gloucestershire, Cottam began work with the England fast bowlers.

He has not yet been fully briefed about the job, but it is a challenge that should bring out the best in him.

Cottam, 53, is known to be one of the country's best bowlers, so this appears to be an opportunity that has come later in life than it might have done.

He is not a diplomat, but he is a players' man

He is not a career diplomat, as he cheerfully admits, but, although his coaching posts at Warwickshire and Somerset ended in conflict with people who he considered to be not worth the bother, he has always been a players' man and a top-notch coach.

Fast bowlers the country over continue to seek his advice and part of his new job, in time, will be to look at promising young pacemen who are considered to be Test material. "There is plenty of talent around," Cottam said. "I reckon there are 20 bowlers coming through at the mo-

ment at the lower levels who may be good enough to play Test cricket."

The man who recruited him sounded happy, too. "He's a straight-talking man, England through and through, and is excellent on matters of technique," Lloyd said. "He may have a reputation for being abrasive, but he knows what players want. What they don't want is to go all the way round the houses to get to the town. In terms of the principles and mechanics of fast bowling, Bob is first-rate."

It was just a preliminary chat yesterday, with the five men who are preparing for the first Test against South Africa, which starts tomorrow. Other than Angus Fraser, who worked with him a few years ago at Lilleshall, when Fraser was struggling with the hip injury that cut two years out of his bowling life, Cottam knows the other England bowlers only by reputation. As a fast-medium bowler himself, with Hampshire and Northamptonshire, who played four times for England, he is a member of the same club.

"I'm not a magician," Cottam said. "Fast bowling is not an exact science. It is a case of suck it and see. If you were to take the best 20 you've ever seen, they would all have different actions. There are plenty of bowlers around who need a bit of fine tuning." And that, he says, is where he comes in, for the two days before each Test match.

Although he is many years senior to the men he will be



Cottam will try to inspire Dominic Cork, who relaxes after practice yesterday

looking after, Cottam, like Peter Lever, the bowling coach that Raymond Illingworth, then chairman of selectors, brought in four years ago, has been involved in cricket since his own playing days ended. He has been credited with laying the foundations for

Warwickshire's glory days, although, in retrospect, it might have been better to have stayed away from Taunton, where Peter Anderson rules the roost as chief executive — and that is the kind of figurehead that Cottam can happily live without.

"This is what I do best," he said yesterday, in a pavilion room overlooking the Edgbaston square. "People who don't agree with me might call me acerbic, if you like, but bowling and working with players has always been a passion of mine."

Sri Lankan selectors decide on experience

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

SHAKEN by a humiliating defeat at the hands of New Zealand in the first Test, Sri Lanka have recalled Hashan Tillekeratne and Kumar Dharmasena for the second Test to add much-needed strength to their middle-order batting.

The experienced pair are back in a 15-man squad after a dismal batting performance saw Sri Lanka suffer a 167-run defeat in the first Test. The second game of the series begins today in the southern city of Galle, which is staging a Test for the first time.

Simon Doull, the New Zealand pace bowler, has been ruled out after aggravating a hamstring injury. His place is likely to go to Shayne O'Connor, the left-arm fast bowler, while the rest of the side is expected to remain unchanged.

Tillekeratne, who has played in 50 Test matches, is almost certain to go straight into the starting line-up in place of Ruwan Kalpage, the all-rounder, who performed well below standard in the first Test.

Dharmasena's chances depend on whether Sri Lanka opt to continue with Pramodya Wickremasinghe acting as their lone pace bowler. If so, the off-spinner is likely to play in place of Malinga Bandara, who failed to take a wicket.

NEW ZEALAND (home): S P Fleming, B A Young, M J Horne, N J Astle, C D McMillan, A G Parore, C L Cairns, C Z Harris, S B O'Connor, D L Vettori, F Waugh, D J Nash, M W Priest, C M A Spearman

Michael DiVenuto was appointed captain of the Australia A squad yesterday to tour Scotland and Ireland this summer. The side, which will be coached by Allan Border, the former Australia Test captain, will play two three-day games and five one-day matches in Scotland before travelling to Ireland for one three-day fixture and five one-day matches. Australian players playing in English county cricket this season were not considered.

AUSTRALIA A: M DiVenuto, M Hayden, A Borach, R Campbell, A Davis, J Gillespie, D Hills, M Hoggarty, S Luff, D Martin, C Miller, A Symonds, B Young

Surrey face stern test of resources

By SIMON WILDE

SURREY are nothing if not unpredictable. This time last year, they sat equal-last in the Britannia Assurance county championship; now they are 14 points clear at the top.

It is early days to be claiming any team champions-in-waiting — in Surrey's case, very early days indeed — but many eyes will be on events at the Oval today to see if the pitch shows the same signs of helping Salgryn Mustaq and Ian Salisbury, the home side's in-form pair of spinners, as the last one did for the game against Kent.

That contest ended in little more than two days as Salgryn and Salisbury claimed 13 wickets on a ground that has been the death of many a slow bowler in recent times.

Surrey may meet sterner resistance in Worcestershire, who have Graeme Hick seeking a fourth championship hundred in a row and several other batsmen in prime form.

If Hick is serious about getting back into the England team, he needs runs in this important match.

Salisbury's improved accuracy is pushing him, too, back into England contention and, if he earns his first recall since moving to the Oval last year, it will add to the pressure on his team's resources. With the first Test match against South Africa starting tomorrow, Surrey must do without Stewart Thorpe and Butcher. Barry

Shahid and Ratcliffe stand in. Play in the match starts an hour later than normal on each day as part of a general experiment to see if later finishes increase attendances.

Northampton, where Lancashire are the visitors, also stages noon starts on the first three days.

Kent, dismissed for 86 and 226 at the Oval, lick their wounds at Tunbridge Wells and plan to take out their feelings on Sussex, who lie an improbable second, three places above their hosts. Kent themselves have to contend with England calls, with Igglesden and Thompson — who has played only one first-team match this season — stepping in for Balham and Headley.

The high placings of Sussex, Durham and Derbyshire confirm that the championship season remains in its infancy. Durham's visit to Lord's should be a stern test of their new-found confidence, especially in attempting to contain the prolific Langer. Durham face the rest of the season without Brown, their most experienced bowler, who must undergo an operation on his worn knee.

Leicestershire, with two wins in three matches, will hope to beat Yorkshire, the early pace-setters at Headingley. It will be interesting to see how Maddy, their opening batsman, responds to his omission from the England team after the selectors all but promised him a place.

Warwickshire will attempt

	W	F	L	D	N	P	Pts
Surrey (15)	5	3	1	10	10	83	
Sussex (18)	5	2	1	12	10	69	
Durham (17)	5	2	1	8	10	62	
Derbyshire (16)	5	1	1	4	10	56	
Hert (12)	5	1	1	2	4	57	
Gloucestershire (14)	5	1	1	2	9	50	
Leicestershire (10)	4	2	0	8	10	56	
Yorkshire (8)	4	2	0	7	14	53	
Warwickshire (7)	4	2	0	5	10	50	
Worcestershire (9)	4	1	0	3	11	47	
Gloucester (11)	4	1	1	2	8	46	
Nottingham (13)	4	1	1	3	4	40	
Lancashire (11)	4	1	1	2	8	40	
Warwickshire (4)	4	1	1	2	7	38	
Northants (15)	4	1	0	3	5	39	
Somerset (12)	4	1	2	1	5	35	
Essex (8)	4	0	3	1	5	22	
Hampshire (14)	3	0	1	2	3	7	16

(Last year's positions in brackets)

to fire their campaign into life against Somerset at Taunton, where they were dismissed for 96 in an Axa League match on Sunday. Much may depend on Lara, their captain, coming good. He is short of runs and owes his team something after arriving too late to play on Sunday. If ever a man was made for noon starts, it is him.

Sussex are set to become the first county to install permanent floodlights at their ground. The club, which announced four months ago that it was considering leaving its traditional home in Hove, has submitted a planning application to erect four 32-metre towers in the corners to provide lighting for day/night games.

130p THE TIMES

CHEER UP GAZZA

YOU CAN STILL PLAY WITH US.

WORLD CUP 98

ITV

THE SUNDAY TIMES

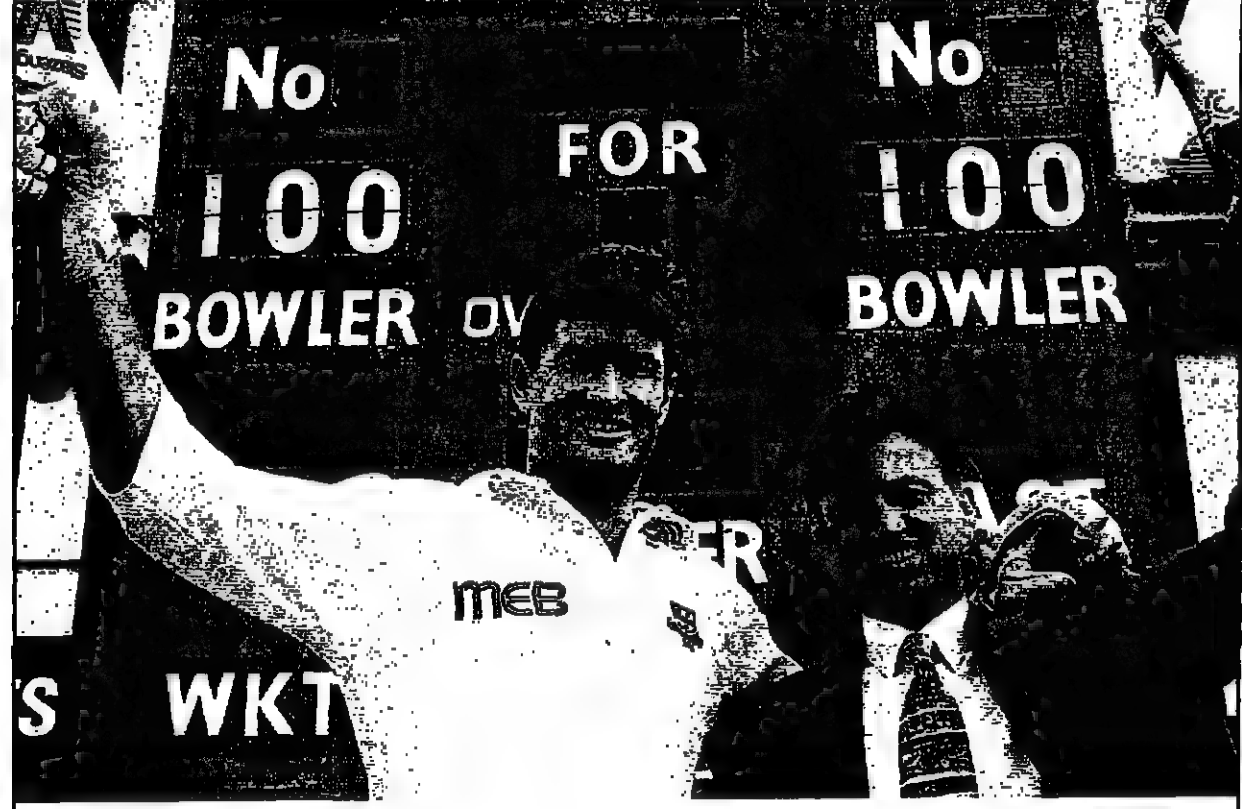
£50,000

plus Vauxhall cars and World Cup tickets to be won

Starting in Monday's 30p Times, play Team Check with the chance to win £50,000, a Vauxhall car or World Cup tickets. Remember the '98 World Cup as the year you won.

CHANGING TIMES

<http://www.the-times.co.uk>



MEB — Midlands Electricity and MEB Powerline, proud sponsors of Worcestershire County Cricket Club since 1987, would like to congratulate Graeme Hick on scoring his 100th century — the third batsman in Worcestershire's history to make this landmark achievement.

WHAT A TEAM!

MEB's partnership with Worcestershire is the longest running sponsorship deal in county cricket.

MEB invites anyone attending the First Test at Edgbaston this week to visit the MEB Save Your Energy Roadshow and make their own mark by having a distinctive face painting done free of charge.



Hoddle right to exorcise ghost of Gascoigne past

FROM OLIVER HOLT, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT, IN LA MANGA

Gascoigne leaves home yesterday, his face betraying his failure to come to terms with his rejection by Hoddle



Friday, his face betraying his
with his rejection by Hoddle

back. With his decision to drop Gascoigne, Hoddle has driven it home to the players just how deadly serious he is about winning, how he will stop at nothing to achieve his goal. In the first post-Gazza training session here on Monday morning, there was a new edge to the attitude of the players, a new bite in the tackles. Suddenly, with the start of the World Cup just a week away, the future seems bright again.

Sealed with a kiss: Gascoigne signals the start of the retreat from perfection after a night of drama in Turin

Slow descent from Turin peak

Oh, there has been music in the air again, though briefly. Moments of glory. That goal against Scotland, the various

Midweek View

England failed to make the finals of the next World Cup in 1994. Graham Taylor signalled his intentions at the beginning of his period as England manager by dropping Gazza for a match

What did Gazza do? He seized the day. *Carpe diem!* That is the real moral of the Gazza Morality Tale — the moral, if truth be known, of practically all of sport's sto-

Now we move on, *Gazzaless*, and turn to England. Some believe that Michael Owen is a great player for the future. It is also true that some of us have felt prickling at the back of the neck where Owen is concerned. Backs of necks can be wrong: we shall relish the chance to see what Owen can seize.

For he is not a great player for the future. He is a player for *right this minute*. *Seize the day!* This is the only World Cup that matters. The only World Cup that has ever mattered. The one that is *happening now*.

BY MATT DICKINSON
AND DAVID MADDOCK

Of interest to the two English clubs is the fact that such a proven goalscorer can leave for a reduced fee of around £4 million. The Merseyside club had an offer of £8 million for Suker, 30, rejected 18 months ago, while United made a tentative approach a year ago. Suker has lost his

Football was likely to come a step nearer home for followers of Brighton last night when a special planning meeting of the local council was expected to approve the club's application to develop Withdean Stadium, a council-owned athletics facility, for use as a temporary home ground. However, even though three other council committees seem likely to support the move, objections from residents may delay a final decision until Christmas and force the club to continue its year-long exile at Gillingham.

Mark Hughes, the former United forward, looks to be on his way from Chelsea after pleading with the club to release him on the free transfer that he had been promised at the end of the season. The Wales international forward has received offers from Middlesbrough, Sunderland and Bolton Wanderers and is likely to choose Bolton, to allow a return to his home in Cheshire.

Newcastle United yesterday signed Lionel Perez, the goalkeeper, on a free transfer from Sunderland. The Frenchman, 31, becomes a free agent on June 30.

Alan Stubbs has told Celtic that he will not be signing a new contract, despite the club's championship success. The defender's wife is homesick for England and Stubbs will exercise a clause in his contract allowing him to return. Everton are the favourites to sign him — if they can meet the £4 million asking price.

Pat Bonner, 38, the former Celtic and Ireland goalkeeper, has joined Reading as assistant manager, while Burnley yesterday appointed Stan Ternent, who guided Bury from the third division to the first in three seasons, as their manager to replace Chris Waddle.

World Cup-bound Durkin finds himself fully booked

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

Since receiving confirmation that he would be the sole English referee at the World Cup finals, Durkin has enjoyed few uninterrupted lunches. Mornings, afternoons and evenings are similarly fragmented by the insatiable demands of the media. If

Durkin, 42, has been photographed as a bewigged judge in a Sunday newspaper supplement and has held court on Radio 5 Live. Glenn Hoddle, the England coach, sought his week-long guidance during recent training at Bisham Abbey, at which Durkin demonstrated the new tackling laws as decreed by Fifa, the sport's world governing body.

If England fall foul of the stricter interpretations in France, they cannot claim ignorance. "It was a great initiative by Glenn and the players were very receptive," Durkin said.

"It may be that the team with the best disciplinary record will win the tournament. If England can avoid all the needless cautions, they must have a good chance." The irony is not lost on him; the further England progress, the less are his chances of officiating in the later stages. Either way, he accepts that scrutiny of the 34 referees will be intense. "There's an awful lot of pressure on each individual to perform," he said.

Durkin does not mind the attention. He views it as acceptable baggage and is becoming more comfortable in his quasi-ambassadorial role. He handles requests courteously and questions diplomatically — unless a previous antagonist should again dare to darken his door. "One bloke rang up wanting a chat, but I told him where to go," he said. It is a rare glimpse of an instinctive, intolerant streak inherited from his father, Billy, a feisty

player with Bradford City, Rotherham United and Aldershot. Durkin Jr could also mix it during his younger days as a midfield player with Portland United in the Dorset Senior League.

Bookings, then as now, featured prominently in his life, once resulting in a 14-day suspension and £4 fine. "The majority were for offering advice to referees," he said. "I tended to be a bit lippy." It lay uneasily with his other weekend pastime, refereeing. "I was dishing out cautions on Saturday and receiving them on Sunday. There was a conflict of interests and the county FA suggested it couldn't continue."

Dishing out cautions won the day, to the extent of booking his younger brother, Graham, during a youth match. "That was the end of it until I got home," Durkin said. "Graham told mum and I got a right rollocking." One of his first dismissals was

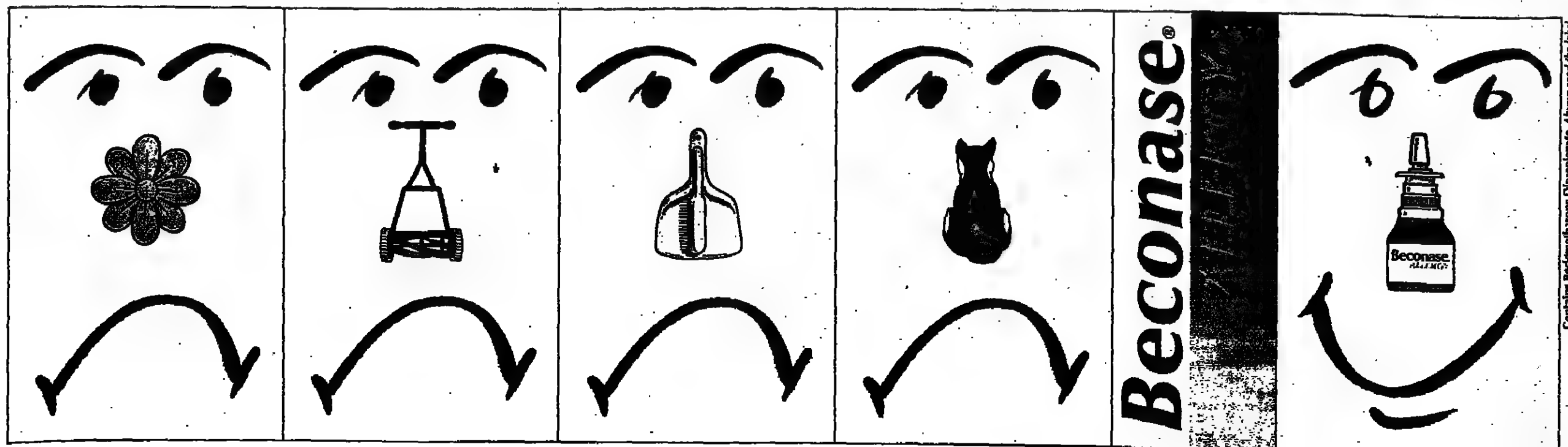
reserved for a friend, Stuart Martindale, after a fracas. "He looked at me rather coyly, thinking I'd let him off," he said. "I didn't." Martindale and Durkin, a fleet administrator, now work together for a housing association in Dorchester.

June, and perhaps July, will conclude a memorable season. He has taken charge of the FA Cup Final, the first leg of the Uefa Cup semi-final between Atlético Madrid and Lazio and the second leg of the European Cup semi-final between Borussia Dortmund and Real Madrid.

Fringe benefits from World Cup duty will include a payment of \$25,000 (about £14,500), regardless of how many matches he is given, and made-to-measure jacket, trousers and shirt by Yves St Laurent. He can keep the jacket, too. "I should think so," he said. "I don't think it would fit anyone else."



Durkin: ambassador



Now Beconase Allergy can help treat and prevent not only hayfever, but other allergies that get up your nose, like dust and pet hair. Freedom from hayfever and all other airborne allergies.

Contains Betamethasone Dipropionate. Always read the label.

World Of Tom 1.30 The Looney & Wilder
 Men's 1.30 North Of Naples, South Of
 2.00 From Tom 2.30 The Great Escape 3.00
 Innocent Abroad 3.30 Oceania 4.00 Which-
 ever 4.30 Go Greece 5.00 The
 World In Wildcat Africa 5.30 Worldwide
 Guide 6.00 North Of Naples, South Of
 Tom 7.00 From Tom 7.30 The
 Wonderful World Of Tom 8.00 Go
 Portugal 8.30 The Flavours Of France 9.00
 From The Olympics To The Andes 10.00 The
 World Of Tom 11.00 From Tom 11.30
 Worldwide Guide 11.30 Oceania

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Victory at Sea: Roman Represen-
 tation 4.30 Men in Crisis: Stalin's Tricky
 5.00 The Longest Hated: Between Mos-
 ley and Mohammad 6.00 Oriental Mysteries
 7.00 Paths Present: Century 1000 7.30

CARLTON FOOD (CABLE)

9.00am Food Network Daily 9.30 Food For
 Thought 10.00 Feasts of the World 10.30
 What's Cooking? 11.00 World's Thump
 Cooks 11.30 Kitchen Clock 12.00 Food
 Network Daily 12.30pm A Year at
 Balthazar 1.00 Food for Thought 1.30
 What's Cooking? 2.00 From Tom 2.30
 Food Network Daily 3.00 The Arts Being
 Served? 3.30 Kitchen Clock 4.00 New
 Chefs on the Block 4.30 Red Hot 'n' Smokin'

LIVING

6.00am Tiny Tiny 9.00 Orlando 9.50
 Ready, Steady 10.00 Orlando 10.30 The Young
 and the Restless 11.00 Broadcast 11.50 Jim-
 my's 12.00pm Living Issues 12.50 Rescue
 911 1.10 The Young and the Restless 1.30
 Orlando 4.10 Tempest 5.00 The Heat Is
 On 5.30 Ready, Steady, Cook 6.10 The
 Young and the Restless 6.11 7.30 Myrales,
 7.40 The Young and the Restless 8.10
 9.00 P.L.M.: That Magic Moment 11.00
 City Springer 12.00 Close

ZEE TV

6.00am Korgel 7.00 Jeagan 7.30
 Ghomra Aaina 8.00 News 8.30 Bunyadi
 9.00 Ghomra 9.30 Sazang 10.00 Tara
 11.00 The Low Cut Show 11.30
 Kurukshetra 12.00 The Low Cut Show
 Aphe Han Wich 3.30 Dastar 4.00 The
 4.30 Liberty 5.00 Chalo Cinema 5.30 Mr
 Mero 6.00 Sangee Aphe Han Wich 6.30 All Time
 7.00 The Yeh Hai Dildar 7.30 The Yeh Hai
 Jeagan 8.00 News 8.30 Dastar 9.00 Drop
 Men Sawan 10.00 ZEE Business Show
 10.30 Aamrit 11.00 Parush Kshetra



TRIATHLON 46

Britain benefits from drain of Australian talent

SPORT

WEDNESDAY JUNE 3 1998

GOLF 49

European women embark upon watershed season



Injured Brazilian striker joins long list of notable World Cup absentees

Final curtain falls on Romario

By ROB HUGHES

ENGLAND, and Paul Gascoigne, are not alone. As the hours ticked away yesterday towards the deadline on which the World Cup squads had to be named, more icons fell. Romário, a soul-mate to Gascoigne if ever there was one, was left out by Brazil because of doubts about his fitness and Kazu Miura, by a distance the most charismatic Japanese player of his generation, was dropped because his form could not be trusted.

Shades of La Manga indeed. When Fifa, football's world governing body, arbitrarily set June 2 as the day to call time on players striving to prove themselves, it might as well have prepared a guillotine. No one will ever know whether Gascoigne, Romário or Miura could have used the extra week to persuade their managers that they could stay the distance.



They are performers synonymous with their countries, individuals to whom the people warmed and through whom many lived out fantasies. Yet how differently England, Brazil and Japan took the news. In England, led by Gascoigne's own outpourings of rage and recrimination, there is a great national divide.

Brazil have lost, in Romário, a personality of similar public magnetism. His goalscoring helped Brazil to win the World Cup four years ago, but, after rising his reputation through drunkenness, infidelity and absenteeism, he returned to reclaim public affection.

The "aging" Romário, 32 but still arduous in the penalty box, still able to show a young thing like Ronaldo some tricks



Crying game: Romário struggles to control his emotions at a press conference to announce his departure from Brazil's World Cup squad. Photograph: Paulo Nicoletta

of the trade, eventually won over Mario Zagallo, Brazil's 66-year-old trainer. If Zagallo never forgave him for partying all night after limping off during a match against Bolivia last summer, he softened to the player's commitment to recapture his shape and his form.

The Confederation Cup in Riyadh this year proved what music Ronaldo and Romário could make together. What harmony and what goals:

Ronaldo the power and the youth, Romário the guile and the experience. Irresistible... but the years of self-inflicted neglect prepared their backlash.

A calf injury, sustained on May 6, will not heal and when Lidio Toledo, the Brazil team doctor, met with Zagallo, Zico, the assistant coach, the team physiotherapist and Romário yesterday, it was agreed that the player was beaten.

Like Gascoigne, Romário wept as he left his colleagues, but until he managed to say: "Twenty-four hours ago, I was talking about the match against Scotland. Things didn't work out. This is a very difficult moment in my life."

This is not goodbye on my part, my relationship with the national team is not over."

Romário's tears acknowledged that his flickering genius and his wasted years left him prone to injury. "I went through an insecure phase," he said. "I couldn't for a while find the right path. Then I decided to overcome my personal problems and I promised myself I would return. I trained hard, I went to sleep early and then Zagallo gave me a chance. I couldn't blow it."

The message for Gascoigne holds good, even if the outcome for Romário is disappointing. The extra man called up is Emerson Ferreira.

24, a defensive midfielder player from Bayer Leverkusen, possibly because Zagallo fears injury to Dunga, his captain, more than he needs another attacker. Brazil, the nation, has no divisions and no despair over Romário because he went gracefully; he is not irreplaceable, and the public was fully informed of his struggle.

Miura's omission was likewise expected, even though Takeshi Okada, the Japan coach, seemed to have a change of heart when recalling him a month ago. "He's our only player with global experience," he said. "He does everything for the team, not for himself." No longer. After

86 caps and 54 goals, Miura gave way to youth. There was disappointment, too, yesterday for Yordan Lechkov, one of the leading lights in Bulgaria's run to the semi-finals four years ago. He was left out of Hristo Bonev's final 22 for France, while the Romanian coach, Anghel Iordanescu, could find no room for the injured Daniel Prodan, normally the mainstay of his defence.

Quite why Fifa needs a definitive roll call eight days before kick-off nobody knows. But in any language, that last cut is a fearful business. □ The Times will print the 32 squads for France 98 tomorrow.

Dawson's absence increases England problems

By MARK SOUSTER

ENGLAND'S fortunes on the field have taken a turn for the worse with the news that Matt Dawson, the captain, will miss the opening international of the tour against Australia in Brisbane on Saturday because of a ligament injury.

Given the controversy concerning the selection of the tour party that preceded England's departure, there was a certain inevitability and no small hint of irony in yesterday's announcement. Certainly the absence of the experienced Dawson, who played a leading role in the British Isles' defeat of South Africa last summer, is a severe setback and could not have occurred at a worse time, coming as it has only three days before the start of the daunting tour, one in which realistically the match against Australia represents England's best chance of an international victory.

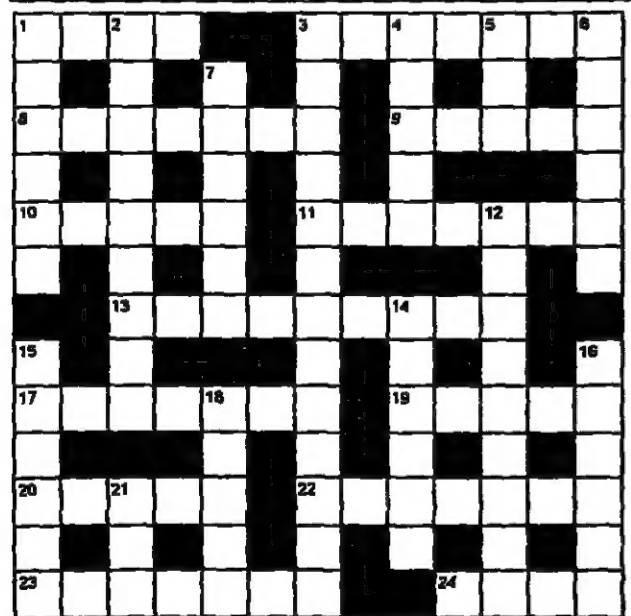
Although the damage to the leg is not considered serious, Woodward has remained faithful to his dictat that only those players who are fully fit would be selected. "Matt will be 95 per cent fit, but I am only going to pick players who are 100 per cent," Woodward said. Dawson's withdrawal benefits two players: Scott Benton, 23, the Gloucester scrum half, who becomes the fifth new cap, and Tony Diprose, of Saracens, who assumes the captaincy.

Fran Cotton is to be investigated by a three-man Rugby Football Union (RFU) panel for allegedly bringing the game into disrepute and attempting to undermine the recent peace accord struck between the union and clubs which ended two years of hostility.

The decision to bring Cotton to account was taken by the RFU management board last Thursday, who studied a report from Roy Manock, the RFU's disciplinary officer, that highlighted, in particular, an article in the *Sunday Mirror* in which Cotton accused Peter Brook, the RFU president, of "betraying the game I love". The panel's findings are expected to be made available ahead of the next full council meeting on June 12.

Scots triumph, page 46

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 1422

ACROSS

- 1 Depict: attract (4)
- 3 No longer operational (7)
- 5 Endurance (7)
- 9 Russian spirit (5)
- 10 Be painful; elegant (5)
- 11 Inexplicable good event (7)
- 13 Silt-skirt dress: hems can go (anag.) (9)
- 17 Fries (from obligation) (7)
- 19 Slaver (5)
- 20 Spirit in bottle (5)
- 22 To veil; reconcile (7)
- 23 Sort of bar, like the towers of Ilum (Marlowe) (7)
- 24 Enthusiasm (4)

DOWN

- 1 Obscureness (6)
- 2 Rock fall (8)
- 3 Job inherited at long last (4,4,3)
- 4 Agitation; high temperature (5)
- 5 Sign of approval, sleepiness (3)
- 6 See the world (6)
- 7 On which to walk quietly (6)
- 12 Self-assurance (9)
- 14 He enjoys causing pain (6)
- 15 Influence; sounds like hang on (6)
- 16 Customer (6)
- 18 Portion, section (5)
- 21 Pinch; shot of drink (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 1421

- ACROSS: 1 Lipstick 7 Prior 8 Brimstone 9 Lea 10 Left 11 Dennis 13 Kelvin 14 Lessee 17 Potter 18 Snug 20 Aze 22 Detective 23 Knaev 24 Protegee
- DOWN: 1 Libel 2 Painful 3 Task 4 Choler 6 Hills 6 Treacle 7 Pennies 12 Ripside 13 Karaoke 15 Singing 16 Mentor 17 Petal 19 Glebe 21 Scot

THE TIMES BOOKSHOP

NEW TIMES CROSSWORD TITLES NOW AVAILABLE

The Times Two Crosswords (Book 1-12-98), The Times Crosswords (Book 20-22-98), The Times Jumbo Crosswords (Book 3-4-98) are available to Times readers for just 14 (RSP £2.00) while supplies last from The Times Bookshop. The Times Computer Crossword on disk may also be ordered, with free delivery, along with any other books from The Times Bookshop. In order simply call 0940 04 69 for credit card orders or for further details. If paying by cheque (P.O. does not apply) to News Bookshop, 100 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0LP. Delivery in 10-14 days and subject to availability.

Magnificent Moya prevents Rios from returning to peak

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT, IN PARIS

THE last remaining seed of substance here was yesterday buried under the clay of Roland Garros when Marcelo Rios, a hot favourite for the French Open, succumbed to a brilliantly executed offensive from Carlos Moya, of Spain. Moya's victory raises the prospect of three Spanish players contesting the semi-finals.

Rios's exit caps a tournament where world rankings have counted for little. The Chilean was the only top-ten player to survive the first week. His quarter-final downfall prevents him from regaining his place as world No 1 from Pete Sampras, and extends his failure to capture a grand-slam title.

The winner of five titles this year, Rios, seeded No 3, was the man most feared by his contemporaries. He came into the match unbeaten in 14

matches, yet his fall was almost inevitable from the way Moya, the winner in Monte Carlo last month and seeded No 12, opened the match. From the first points Moya, 21, attacked from the baseline, refusing to yield to Rios's renowned shot-making. Moya advanced quickly to 3-0, a series of tame errors from Rios matching the vulnerability that he showed against Albert Costa, another Spaniard, in the previous round.

If Rios was at odds with his surroundings, he rallied to take the second set as convincingly as Moya had the first. He established the upper hand but, just when he seemed poised to impose himself, the Spaniard, beaten by Rios on their only previous encounter, raised his game to fresh heights in the third set. The catalyst was Moya's

stout recovery from a treacherous early position: he trailed 1-0 and stood at 0-40 on his service. He grew visibly in stature, driving Rios to all corners of the court before unloading his heavy forehand with telescopic precision. Rios quickly accepted the loss of that set before bracing himself for one last effort, but Moya was to prove resolute in a fourth set of great drama.

The two traded breaks to 3-3 and, in a spellbinding passage of play, Moya barely contained his opponent, saving a break point to hold service at 4-3. The crux arrived when Moya broke Rios's service to lead 5-4 after Rios left an easy ball that he felt had bounced twice before Moya played it. "I quit playing because I was sure," Rios said later. "I think it made a big difference." Although the Chilean com-

plained bitterly, he was guilty of failing to play to the umpire's call and brought about his own downfall.

Moya still required nerves of steel to close out the match. That final game featured some nailbiting points, not least when Rios repelled three match points with a mixture of brio and good fortune. The first he saved with a blistering forehand that clipped the line; the second with an outrageous net cord that dropped stone dead on Moya's side; the third with a sublime drop-volley that he played from inches above the clay.

A seventh ace from Moya brought a fourth match point from which Rios could conjure no escape. His recent exertions may have taken their toll; in preceding weeks, Rios has played in Rome and St Pölten, Austria, after an elbow injury had left him short of match practice.

"To beat Rios you have to play a complete match," Moya, the most complete player among a plethora of Spaniards in the world's top 50, said. He reached the final of the Australian Open on a hard-court surface last year. Now, his 6-1, 2-6, 6-2, 6-4 triumph yesterday projects him into a semi-final against his compatriot, Felix Mantilla, who beat Thomas Muster 6-4, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3.

Alex Corretja, seeded No 14, will become the third Spaniard to reach the semi-final if he beats Filip Dewulf today. The fourth quarter-final sees Cedric Pioline, of France, pitted against Hicham Arazi, of Morocco. Both are unseeded.



Moya celebrates after his surprise victory over Rios in the quarter-finals yesterday

Hinges in charge, page 50

LAND OF HOPS AND GLORY.



CHARLES WELLS FAMILY BREWERY, BEDFORD, EST. 1874
BREWING FOR ENGLAND